

ought to be left to the next
ter; in their ages every nation had
and among many others, whether he left
succeed in preference to one
son of a private person only, whilst the other was born
then, might Robert, the first King of his house, be de
cide to settle or ratify the succession.

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Katharine Helvæn

from

Mr. Hansen

1807.

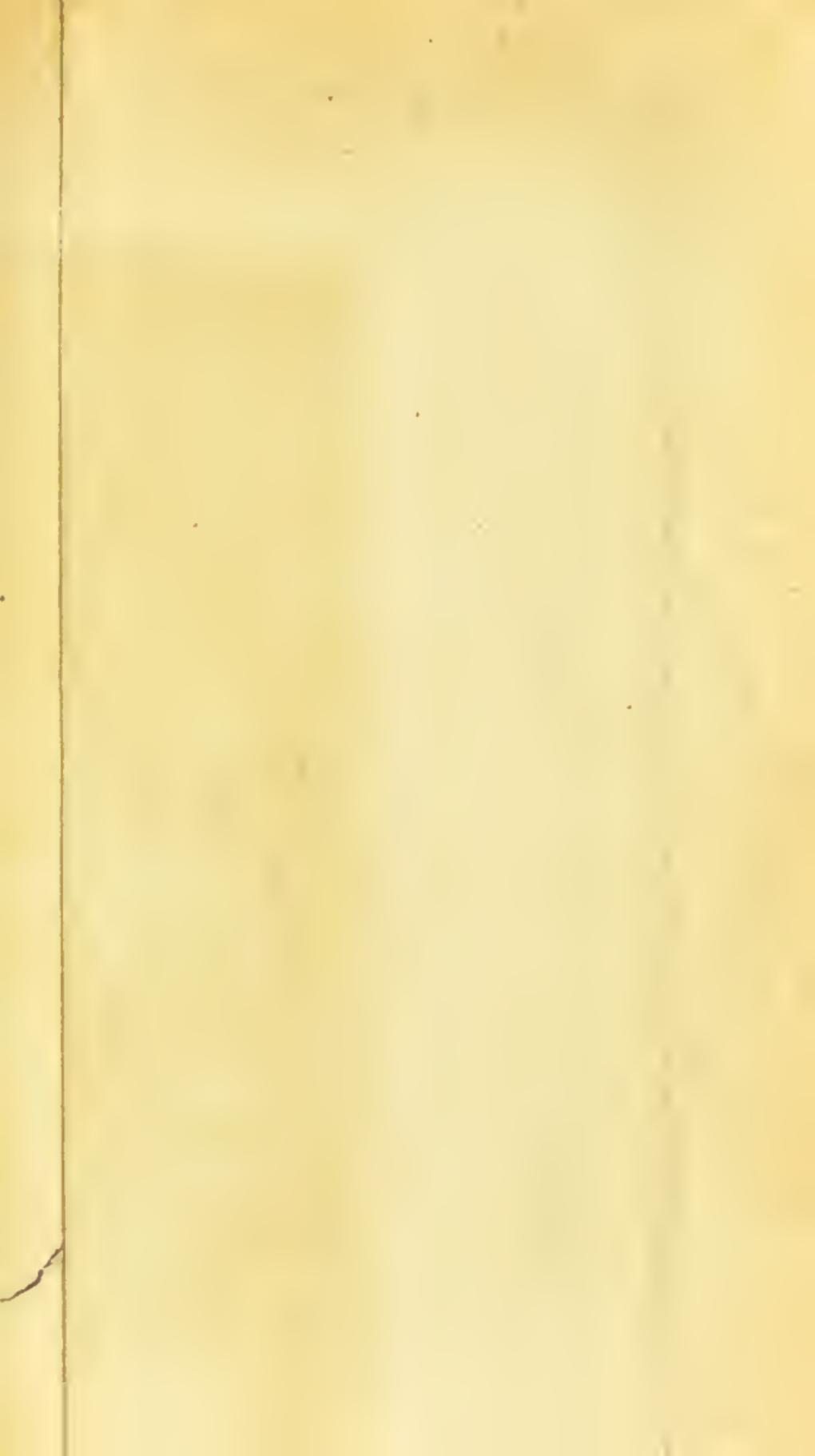
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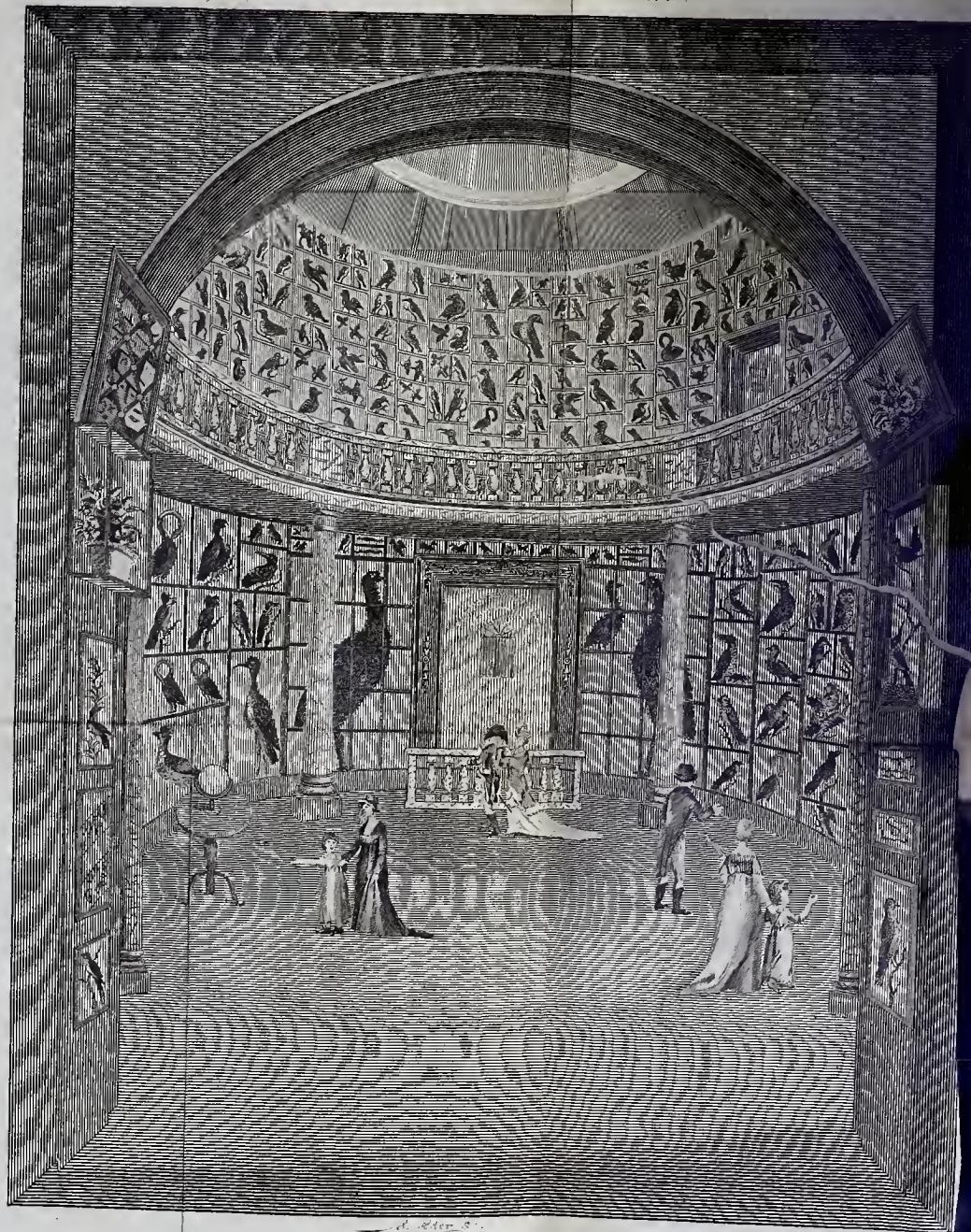
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Leverian Museum.



The Rotunda.

Pub. Nov. 22-1805, by Tabart & C° 157, New Bond Street.

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VISITS
TO THE
LEVERIAN MUSEUM;
CONTAINING
AN ACCOUNT OF SEVERAL
OF ITS
PRINCIPAL CURIOSITIES,

Both of Nature and Art:

INTENDED FOR THE
INSTRUCTION OF YOUNG PERSONS

In the First Principles of Natural History.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR TABART AND CO.

"*the Juvenile Library, No. 157, New Bond-street.*

HENEY, PRINTER, BANNER-SQUARE.



P R E F A C E.

THE Leverian Museum is an invaluable collection of curiosities, brought together from almost all the known parts of the world. The articles are stated, and greatly within compass, to be more than 30,000 in number. They occupy fifteen apartments, of which two are circular, and the rest oblong or square. The first, or Entrance-room, is called the *Hall*: its contents are chiefly ancient weapons, of different kinds. The second is a *Passage*, against the sides of which are hung mantles, weapons, &c. from the South Sea islands. The third is the *Sandwich room*, which contains various interesting articles from the Sandwich islands. The fourth apartment is circular, and called the *Saloon*.

Here

Here are deposited different articles of natural history, but chiefly from the mineral and vegetable kingdoms. On the right of the Saloon is the fifth apartment, the *North room*, containing marine productions and minerals; and on the left, the sixth, or *South room*, containing principally shells and fossils. Beyond the Saloon is an apartment (the seventh) which I have denominated the *Fish room*; but besides fish, it contains several articles of dress, &c. from the South Sea islands. On the left of the Fish room are three others; one containing the *monkies*, another the *reptiles*, and the third chiefly *anatomical preparations* and monsters. On the right of the Fish room is the eleventh apartment, denominated the *Wardrobe room*, from its containing dresses of different ages and nations; and on one side of this is the *First Triangular room*, where there is a miscellaneous collection of curiosities. Beyond the Fish room

room is the grand circular apartment, with a gallery round it, called the *Rotunda*. In this room is supposed to be deposited by far the most splendid and numerous assortment of birds to be found in any one apartment in the kingdom. The *Second Triangular room* contains principally dried fish. In the fifteenth apartment, which joins upon the last, there is deposited a very excellent collection of *quadrupeds*; and under a shed in the ancient garden are an elephant and hippopotamus.

The price of admission to the Leverian Museum is exceedingly reasonable, being only one shilling each person, without any additional gratuity to the door-keeper. It is open from ten o'clock in the morning till five in the evening; and betwixt these hours every person is considered at liberty to amuse himself as long as he pleases. The apartments are kept well aired by good fires; and in all the

the principal rooms there are sofas to
to repose upon, when fatigued with
standing or walking about. The labels
and names on most of the cases ren-
der it unnecessary to have any persons
stationed in the Museum for the pur-
pose of explaining its contents.

ANTHONY ELLA.

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CONTENTS.

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VISITS TO THE *LEVERIAN MUSEUM.*

THE FIRST DAY.

“**H**ERE I am, sir, (said Henry Morton, entering my room precisely as the clock struck ten): I come to claim the performance of your promise. I hope you are ready to set out, for indeed I am very anxious to see so many beautiful and curious objects, as you said you would shew me to-day.”

We will set out (replied I) in a few minutes. I am glad that your anxiety has induced you to be with me so early. The Museum opens at ten o'clock, and our observations will

be less interrupted than they would be if we went later in the day.

“ I was resolved to be sufficiently early, because, then, sir, you know, we can also have more time for examination.”

True—and, I dare say, it will be a piece of pleasing intelligence to you, to be informed that the objects are so numerous, that it will occupy us at least four days to get through the whole collection in the manner which I have proposed to myself.

“ That is indeed delightful ! Do, sir, let us proceed : we can talk of the rest, you know, by the way.”

The Museum is situated in Albion-street, on the Surry end of Blackfriars’ bridge. We therefore called a boat at the Temple-stairs, and ordered the waterman to row us thither.

During the voyage, I took the opportunity of informing my little friend, who was all anxiety on the subject, that

that the Leverian Museum was a splendid monument of the labour and perseverance chiefly of a single individual; that the collection was originally formed at an enormous expence, at Alkerington, near Manchester, by Mr., afterwards Sir Ashton Lever; that, being nearly ruined with the undertaking, he applied to parliament for leave to dispose of it by a lottery of thirty-six thousand tickets, at a guinea each; of these, not being able to sell so many as one-fourth, he determined to take the risk; (more than three to one in his favour) and, possessing the remainder of the tickets himself, to draw the lottery, rather than altogether give up the chance of disposing of his collection; that he was unfortunate, and the Museum fell to Mr. Parkinson, the present owner, who erected for its reception the elegant building in which it is now deposited. I had scarcely time to say any thing more

on the subject, before we found ourselves at the foot of Blackfriars' bridge.

We paid our shilling each for admission, at the door of the Museum, and entered this splendid repository of the rarest productions of nature and art. Henry did not at first seem much surprised. I led him through the Hall, the Sandwich-room, and the Saloon, towards the Rotunda. His eyes were fixed on the mirror at the extremity of the apartments, and as he approached he fancied that they became every moment more extensive and numerous. His raptures exceeded all bounds. He thought there could be no end to examining such a multitude of beautiful and splendid objects.

“ My dear sir, (he at last exclaimed) how much farther am I to go? We shall never arrive at the extremity of these apartments !”

Fear not, my boy, said I, leading

ing him across the Rotunda, immediately to the marble balustrade before the mirror. He observed the reflection of our figures, and gazed on them for a moment.

“ Pshaw—I have been deceived by a looking glass ! How could you, sir, have the cruelty thus to disappoint me ? But, (continued he, now casting his eyes round the circular apartment) what a beautiful collection of birds ! Ah, I know several already ! Here are the ostrich and cassowary : see there’s an owl, and there an eagle ; and there, sir—oh, what a beautiful parrot is there ! I am so delighted, that I can scarcely express the pleasure I feel ! How are we to employ ourselves to-day ? Pray let us begin with the birds.”

I mean to do so, replied I ; and since they will afford as much information as you will be able to recollect

from one lesson, I shall occupy the whole of this day with those that are contained in the lower part of

The Rotunda.

Let us turn our faces towards the entrance, and begin our employment on the left of the door-way ; from thence we will proceed regularly round the apartment.

That case on the floor contains a pair of birds, which perhaps you might mistake, though they are very different in many respects, for geese. You will recollect having seen some account of them, when I tell you they are the *eider duck*.

“ I do recollect them perfectly well. They are said to line their nests, which they build on the ground in many parts of the north of Europe, with the down they pluck from their breasts. This is afterwards sometimes taken

taken away by men, and sold under the name of *eider down*, for stuffing beds and quilts."

Perfectly correct. Your memory is more retentive than I had given it credit for being. I will only inform you further that these birds feed on fish, in pursuit of which they plunge to great depths in the sea, and that they are so hardy as to prowl about on the open ocean through the whole winter, even as far north as Greenland, searching for their scaly food in the clefts of the ice, at all times, except during the raging of the storms; but when they are threatened by these, they always immediately seek for shelter on the shores.

You see next a curiosity indeed, the *nest and part of the egg of a woodcock*, which were discovered in England.

" Woodcocks, sir, are very often shot in this country; and why should the

the nest of one of these birds be considered a curiosity?"

Because the woodcock and a few other birds annually leave us at the commencement of the spring to breed in various parts of the north of Europe, and do not again arrive till the month of October. This nest, as you observe, has been made on a piece of turf; and the written paper in the case informs us, that the female was found sitting on four eggs, near Lord Corke's seat, at Marston, in Somersetshire, in May, 1789. Three of the eggs were destroyed by vermin, and the fourth was nearly so; but the form of the young bird contained it, now deposited in the bottle that stands by the nest, was at the time tolerably correct. The nest and about half the shell of the egg are here preserved.

"I observe there, sir, a pair of those affectionate birds, the *white storks*, from Holland. I am always delighted

when

when I read of the attention that these birds pay to their young ones. My papa often tells me the story of the stork that was burnt in the great fire at Delft, after having several times in vain attempted to save her children. When I first heard it, I could not refrain from weeping.—What a beautiful *pheasant* is here, and near it a large parrot ! Pray, sir, what parrot is that ?”

It is called the *blue-and-yellow macaw*, and has been brought from the Brasils, or some adjacent part of South America. Its size is immense, and its colours are remarkably brilliant ; but, when alive, like all other parrots, it is a noisy and mischievous bird ; and, from the amazing size and strength of its bill, must be able to pinch very hard when offended.

“ I think so, indeed ; but I should be wise enough, on such occasions, to keep sufficiently out of its reach.”

In

In the case further on towards the left there is a pair of tall and slender birds, with crests on their heads, which seem almost like wire. I suppose you recollect what they are ?

“ Yes, perfectly : they are the *ballic cranes*. How very elegant they are : and how strange is the appearance of their crest, of the long narrow feathers hanging down their breast, and the red fleshy part betwixt their crest and bill ! From their slender form and long legs, they seem well calculated for wading into the water in pursuit of prey ; and, if I recollect aright, they are said to be found chiefly near the sea, or about the banks of rivers, in Guinea, and some other parts of Africa. But what is that frightful bird, with a large beak and naked head, that I see near the cranes ? ”

It is called the *alpine vulture* ; and, although a filthy and disgusting creature when alive, it performs more essential

essential services in Egypt and the Levant than almost any other animal. The inhabitants of those countries hold it in such esteem, that it was formerly made a capital crime to kill one of these vultures.

“ What can have been the reason, sir, for such a regulation with respect to so ugly a bird ? ”

During the hot season of the year, all animal substances become putrid there within a very few hours after death. These birds serve the place of scavengers, by devouring all this filth almost immediately after it is produced. They thus prevent the air from becoming impregnated with noxious particles, which otherwise would in many cases bring on pestilence and disease. From such a mode of feeding, you are not to be surprized at their disgusting appearance, nor if I tell you that their smell, when alive, is sometimes almost beyond endurance.

The

The second case above this bird contains a *barnacle goose*. I point it out to you for the purpose only of remarking, ridiculous as it may appear to you, that scarcely two hundred years ago some of the most observing naturalists believed that this animal was produced not from an egg, like all other birds, but from a shell called a “barnacle,” which is occasionally found adhering to old timber that has lain for some time at the bottom of the sea.

I observe there two *bustards*: the male seems to stand near three feet high. It is sufficiently distinguished from the female by its greater size, and by the long whisker on each side of its mouth. This is by far the largest of all the birds that are found in England. From its long and stout legs, and the shortness of its wings, it boasts a near alliance to the ostrich; and, like that bird, does not often use the latter,

latter, except for the purpose of aiding the motion of its legs. The enclosure of many of the extensive plains, on which the bustard was formerly an inhabitant, and the increased population of the country, have now almost extirpated its race out of Great Britain. These birds run with astonishing rapidity, and seldom take wing, except when hard pressed by an enemy. In the neck of the male there is contained a pouch that will generally hold somewhat more than a quart of water. The pouch of the bird here preserved, you see, is stuffed with cotton, and hung up in the corner of the case. It is said by one writer, though I know not with what truth, that the bustard uses this water in defending itself against the attacks of birds of prey: and that on these occasions it throws it out from its beak with so much violence, as not unfrequently to baffle the pursuit of its enemy.

“ Surely, sir, this quality must seem to you somewhat of the same description with what you tell me of the barnacle goose, you just now mentioned as being hatched from a shell.”

Perhaps it may : all that can be said in its defence is, that it yet continues to obtain belief, whilst the other is considered by every one as a notorious falsehood.

“ Ah, my dear sir, see, there is a most beautiful *red flamingo* ! How elegantly its slender neck is curved ! How very singular are those long and taper legs ! And, in proportion to the bulk of its body, what an immense length it is from the feet to the extremity of the bill ! It must surely be a very beautiful sight to see at a distance a great flock of these large and red birds, in the black and extensive marshes which they are said to inhabit, in many parts of North America. I presume, from the unusual

usual length of their legs, and from their being web-footed, that they feed on fish, or other productions of the water: but what particular advantage can they derive from their huge beak being curved in the manner that I observe?"

It is generally believed that they find their prey among the mud of rivers and sea-shores; and that in searching for this, they so twist their neck round as to be able to apply the upper part of their bill to the ground for the purpose of taking it.—What appears to me the most singular circumstance in the history of the flamingo, is, that the females, at the commencement of the breeding season, form hillocks so high and so steep as to admit of their sitting astride on the top, their legs extended downwards on each side, for the purpose of hatching the two eggs which they deposit there in a rude kind of

nest, or cavity, formed principally of mud.

“ I should like, of all things, to have a tame flamingo to run about and play with me in the garden.”

It would be a very difficult matter to bring one of them alive into this country, since they are such tender birds, when young, as not easily to be reared even in their native climates. But if you could get one, I dare say, it would be a very entertaining companion ; for they are exceedingly gentle and good-tempered birds : and if they can only survive the loss of their natural food, they soon become tame and domestic.

How extremely different from those of the flamingo are the proportions and appearance of the large upright bird which you observe on the other side of the fire-place ! It is a *penguin* from the *Falkland islands*. From the extreme shortness of its wings, or rather

rather of its fins, (for we may with some propriety call them such) you must naturally conjecture that it can have no share in the advantages which most birds derive from their wings.

" No, my dear sir ; but I can easily guess that they are at least of equal advantage in some other respects, when I look at their form, see them almost naked of feathers, and remark the webbed feet of the bird. Besides, I recollect having read that the penguins are all animals that live and feed chiefly in the waters. But the body of the bird seems to be closely covered with some kind of manufactured stuff rather than feathers ! I think I can perceive the marks of the threads."

Indeed you cannot : what you mistake for threads are really the extremities of each of the feathers of the short and compact coat which sur-

rounds the body. These entirely resist all the ill effects which otherwise would take place from the immediate contact of their body with the water. You will remark in another respect, how extremely well this bird is fitted for residing in that element. The front part of its body tapers gradually, till it ends in a point with the extremity of the bill. Thus formed, and furnished with four oars in its wings and feet, it is able to dive with great celerity, and without much difficulty to seize at all times its scaly food. The skin of some of the penguins is as thick as that of a hog. Our sailors call them jumping jacks, from their frequently leaping about on the surface of the water, sometimes to the height even of three or four feet, on meeting with any obstacle in their course.

Over the door-way of the stairs, leading to the gallery, is a pair of *secretary-*

secretary-vultures. Their name is derived from the long feathers which hang loose at the back of the head, and which reminded the first observers, at the Cape of Good Hope, where they are found, of clerks, or secretaries, with pens stuck behind their ears. They are supposed to feed almost wholly on reptiles and serpents.

“ I should have thought, sir, that any serpent could have coiled itself round them, and bit them to death.”

That is by no means the case, as many persons have witnessed. Serpents are generally thought to be cunning animals; but these birds are, even in *this* respect, superior to them. Their mode of attack depends much on the size and appearance of their enemy. If it be small, they immediately tread upon and crush it with their feet; but when they are likely to meet with

powerful

powerful resistance; they are said to advance with great caution, holding forward one of their wings, as the ancient warriors used to do their bucklers, in order to ward off from the vital parts the poisonous fangs, which otherwise might soon inflict a mortal wound. Their weapon of offence is the bony protuberance of the other wing, and with this they are able to strike with amazing force and quickness. Nothing can be more expert or active than the combatants on both sides. The serpent, finding itself powerfully resisted in front, generally endeavours to make an attack in the rear: this, however, is to little purpose. The agile bird, at a single leap, presents again its formidable front and its advanced wing. By a lucky effort it sometimes gets the serpent on its pinions. This is a grand manœuvre, and when it succeeds generally proves fatal.

The

The bird, by an instantaneous and astonishing effort, whirls it into the air to a considerable height, from whence it falls senseless to the ground; and a few exertions of the feet destroy it altogether.

“ I should not at all like to witness one of these dreadful encounters. But I suppose the bird bites off the head of the serpent before it swallows it, or else the poison, when it got into the stomach, would soon make an end of it.”

I do not know that such is the case, and I am inclined to think it is not, or some of the travellers who have described the bird would have noticed the circumstance. Besides, there is reason to suppose that animal-poison, when taken into the stomach, and particularly into so powerful a stomach as the gizzard of a bird, does not always prove fatal.

“ Pray, sir, can the secretary-vulture

ture be rendered tame? If it can, it must prove very useful in clearing court-yards, and other places in the hot countries, where it is kept, of the immense numbers of lizards and snakes which, I have been told, always abound there, and which would frighten me very much to see them."

My dear boy, none of these snakes or lizards would injure either you or any other person, were they not first irritated or wounded. If merely disturbed, they would always seek a retreat; for you need not doubt, but they are as much alarmed at the sight of a human being, as you could possibly be at them. The secretary-vultures are sometimes domesticated; but they prove themselves much more serviceable in destroying the multitudes of rats and mice with which some of the farms at the Cape abound, than in extirpating out of them the animals of the serpent and reptile tribes.

"I declare

" I declare there is a beautiful pair of *swallows with their nest*, built in the opening of a large conch-shell."

The history of that nest, Henry, is somewhat curious. You no doubt recollect that swallows generally construct their little dwellings of mud, in the insides of chimnies.

" Oh yes, perfectly ; for in the country I have often seen them hovering over the tops of chimnies, where the rooms have had no fire in them since the winter ; and I have more than once observed them enter with something in their mouth, which I of course took to be either part of the materials for a nest, or else some kind of food for their young ones."

Well. Now then for the story of this nest :—Several years ago, an owl that had been shot was hung up in the inside of a Dutch barn, in the grounds of Sir Ashton Lever, near Manchester, and it was so loose as to swing

swing about with the least gust of wind. What could induce the swallows to attempt the building of a nest in a situation so very different from what they generally adopt, I cannot tell; but, strange as it may seem, they actually did construct their habitation on the wings of this owl.

“ It does appear strange, indeed! But proceed: I am all anxiety to know the end of so whimsical a beginning.”

The female laid her eggs in the nest, when some person, who had remarked the whole procedure, informed Sir Ashton of it, and the owl, nest, and eggs, were taken away, and preserved as curiosities.

“ I should like extremely to see these: they must appear even more surprising than this swallow’s nest in the conch-shell.”

You shall see them before we leave the

the Museum; for they were put into a glass case, and are now in the gallery above our heads. Sir Ashton Lever was so much pleased with this nest, that he ordered the shell that is before us to be fastened in or near the same place. The following year witnessed the formation of the present nest, and, as it is supposed, by the same pair of birds.

“Beautiful creatures! I think I should have been so much interested for them as not to have taken their nest, at least till the young ones had been able to fly away and leave it. I should not certainly have interrupted the happiness of two little creatures, which I should have so much admired.—Oh, here is another frightful large bird, with a tremendous beak! I should take it to be an eagle, or a vulture, if it were not web-footed, and therefore a water-bird.

From its size and strength, and its long wings, I can suppose that it lives on the sea, rather than about the banks of rivers and streams, like our wild geese and ducks. No doubt it is able to kill and eat very large fish. Pray, sir, what is its name?"

It is called an *albatross*. In your favourite book, Cook's Voyages, you must recollect that it was these birds which the sailors sometimes used to catch, by throwing into the water large hooks, baited with flesh. Their voracity is so great, that they will feed indiscriminately on all sorts of animal food ; and they are such gluttons, that they have been known sometimes to gorge themselves so, as even to prevent them from flying. They seldom, however, get any thing to eat but fish ; and of course it is not at all times that they can catch enough of these to produce this effect. The
seamen

seamen tell us, that the voice of the albatross is somewhat like the braying of an ass.

“ Let us pass on to the *cranes*, sir, which I observe below this bird : I have such a detestation for gluttony, that I can no longer bear to look upon it.”

These are very large and beautiful birds ; and the male, as you observe, is of a considerably bigger size than the female. Remark the fine curved feathers of his tail, what a conspicuous appearance they make ! Cranes were once sufficiently common in some of the extensive tracts of marshy land in England ; but at present it is reckoned a very uncommon thing to see one of them. They generally pass the winter in Egypt and other parts of the east, and the summer in the north of Europe. Like wild-geese, they fly in large flocks, and generally in a regular figure, led by

one, who flies a little way before the rest.

“ Dear sir, is not that a *pelican*? O yes, I am sure it is, by the enormous bag that I see beneath its bill. I know its history well ; and shall not easily forget the old and ridiculous story of its feeding its young ones with its own blood, produced by pecking its breast with its bill. It serves them much better by carrying to them in its bag the fish which it catches at sea.—Ah, there’s a *silver pheasant*, from China ! It is a charming bird ! I suppose that it lives much in the same manner as our pheasant : in the colour and appearance of its feathers, however, it is very different.”

I need not tell you, Henry, that the bird on each side of the mirror is an *ostrich* ; nor is it necessary for me to detail to you much of its history, since the ostrich is mentioned

at

at considerable length in almost every book of natural history that is published. Its wings are of little or no use, but that of aiding the speed of its legs ; and it runs so fast on level ground, that it is not till after a chace of several hours that the inhabitants of the eastern countries, which it inhabits, can come up to it, though mounted on their swiftest coursers. Ostriches are so strong as to be able to carry men on their backs ; and in a few countries, they are said to be trained to serve the place of animals of burthen. A party of English sailors were once highly delighted with some ostriches in the stables (if I may so call them) of the Dey of Algiers. These men are in general but clumsy riders, even on horseback, but when mounted on ostriches they were completely out of their element ; and after a few severe tumbles, were willing enough to give up

this novel amusement. The eggs of the ostrich are excellent food ; and in the case that contains the female, (on the right of the mirror) is an egg, and one of the young birds. But observe, along with the male, which seems to stand about seven feet in height, there are placed three little *humming birds*, the longest scarcely measuring two inches: thus a contrast is afforded, in the same case, of the largest and smallest birds that have hitherto been discovered. Next to the male ostrich I observe a pair of fine *cassowaries*, from the island of Java. These animals, in their general appearance ; in their long legs, and short wings, are very nearly allied to the ostrich. They are remarkable in their blue head and neck, naked of feathers ; in having five long, and somewhat curved, spines or pickles, at the end of each wing ; and in the male bird having the large horny ex-
crescence,

crescence, which you observe, on the top of his head. From these singularities in the cassowary, and from the size and sprightliness of its eye, one writer has said, that it has the head of a warrior, the eye of a lion, the defence of a porcupine, and the swiftness of a horse. It is very inoffensive, but exceedingly voracious; and, as well as the ostrich, it is said sometimes to swallow even glass, iron, or stones. These are not digested, like its proper food, which consists almost entirely of seeds, corn, and vegetables, but, having passed into the gizzard or stomach, they assist in grinding this down, and rendering it easier of digestion.

“I remember that mamma told me, it was for this reason she put gravel and sand into the cages of the goldfinches and canaries, that we have in the country; and that she said a parrot would die, if it were not to have gravel

vel to swallow.—Pray, sir, what is the beautiful bird, with extended wings, that I see next to the cassowaries?"

It is the *Argus pheasant*, which is found principally in Chinese Tartary and the island of Sumatra. Nothing surely can be conceived more elegant than those eye-like spots along the feathers of its tail, from which it takes its name. You recollect the story of Argus and his hundred eyes, in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. It lives in deep woods and forests, and is said to make as unpleasant a noise as you have often heard from the peacock. It is of so wild a nature as seldom to live more than a month or two in confinement; and its natural shyness and timidity render it stupid and inanimate, whenever, during this time, it is exposed to observation.

Above this pheasant, you observe that noble and formidable bird, the *golden eagle*. This has occasionally been

been seen in the mountainous parts of England ; but, to the great satisfaction of the shepherds of such districts, it is but a rare visitant.

“ I think, however, I have somewhere read, that, in the north of Scotland and the Orknies, these eagles are in such plenty, and commit so many depredations among the lambs and poultry, that whoever kills one of them is entitled, as a reward for their labour, to a hen from every house in the parish.”

I believe you may be correct : and they have sometimes been known to build their nests on the highest rocks of the Cheviot hills, in Northumberland. The golden eagle is generally denominated the sovereign of the birds, as the lion is of the quadrupeds ; and it has been considered, but how justly I cannot venture to say, to possess such a degréé of magnanimity as to despise and disregard the

the insults of all animals, except those of the larger species. What it seems the most remarkable for, is its extreme quickness of sight. We are told that even in its most towering flights, far out of the reach of human observation, it can discern almost the smallest objects upon the ground. When it observes its prey, it darts down upon it with the celerity of an arrow; and but seldom misses its aim, or fails of securing it.

“ Do see, my dear sir, how very sapient that *horned owl* looks by the fire-place. His eyes are open in the day-time now, much more than they were before he was brought into this place. Minerva might like such a bird; but he is of too sleepy and stupid a disposition to please me. We will therefore pass to the other side of the fire-place.”

I observe you have fixed your eye on a bird which seems to excite your surprize,

surprise, the *rhinoceros hornbill*. It is, to be sure, a very strange looking fellow. What the use of the large recurved excrescence at the upper part of his bill can be, is not known. By the section of the beak of another species, the Malabar hornbill, that is hung up at the back part of the case, you see it is for the most part hollow and porous. All the hornbills feed on flesh and carrion ; and we are told that both these species will follow the hunters, for the purpose of devouring the refuse of what they kill. They likewise themselves kill rats and mice ; and after they have pressed them flat with their beaks, they toss them up into the air, and, catching them in their mouth, swallow them as they fall.

“ What a very singular operation that must be ! It would be highly amusing to me to witness it.”

Now, Henry, I will introduce to
your

your notice a bird, which is considered the most valuable, as it is the most rare and curious of any which this Museum contains—I mean the male *condur*. It is the largest species of vultures hitherto known. The male, which is distinguished by the fleshy excrescence, or comb, on the top of his head, is represented as if in the act of taking wing. This bird is very small, when compared with what we read of as inhabiting the mountains of South America ; where, it is said, they have sometimes been known to measure as much as six yards, thrice the extent of the expanded arms of a tolerably large man, from tip to tip of their wings. We are not to wonder that a bird of these terrible dimensions, with a strength of body fully proportionate, should be able to pounce and devour a whole sheep or a stag.

“ This account of the condur reminds

minds me of poor Sendbad and the immensely large egg that he saw, and the roc that came to sit upon it; to whose leg he tied himself with his sash, and was carried by her into the valley of diamonds !

“ I suppose, sir, the *roc* and the *condur* are the same bird ; and yet, till this moment, I always fancied that the Arabian Nights’ Entertainments were fabulous stories. I find, however, that, strânge as they may have seemed to me, there is at least some truth in them.”

I do not know that you gain much in this respect from the circumstance of there being in America a bird of prey of huge size. It proves little as to the truth of the Arabian tales ; for Sendbad’s *roc* must have been many times larger than the *condur*, since its egg is described as being big enough for him to creep under its side, and hide himself from the observation of the parent-bird.—The *roc* is an ima-

ginary bird, the idea of which seems to have been derived from a large bird of prey, common in many parts of the eastern countries, called the *bearded eagle*.

I will point out to you two other cases of birds in this apartment, and we shall then have finished what I proposed for our examination to-day.

The first of these contains a dark mottled bird, which appears as if in the act of flying. Its name is *whip-poor-will*.—These birds are found in Virginia, from nearly the middle of April to the end of June. About the commencement of twilight every night they begin their melancholy cry of “whip poor will,” from which they take their name, and they continue to repeat it till the break of day. This noise is so loud and shrill, that it is said to echo from the rocks and mountains on all sides in a very surprizing manner. They are very seldom shot, since they never appear abroad

abroad during the day-time. The Indians tell us that these birds were unknown in the country, till a great massacre of their countrymen, by the English, took place ; and they assert that they are the departed spirits of the massacred Indians. They are looked upon as birds of ill omen ; and if one of them alight on or near a house, it is always believed that some person of the family will die soon afterwards.

"These, however, are foolish notions, sir, are they not?"

They are certainly not correct ones; but we must not be surprized with the superstitions of a simple Indian, whilst the people of our own country are in many respects equally credulous.

“ I suppose you allude to the screech-owl, the night-raven, and the bat ; because I have often heard the poor women about papa’s house in the country talk of these, and they have sometimes been very much

frightened with them.—I declare there are some little *humming birds* under that inverted bell-glass in front of the entrance : how exceedingly small and beautiful they are ! I am sure I have seen some moths in this country full as large as they.—One, two, three. In that small space there are no fewer than twelve birds ; and one of them, pretty creature, sitting on its little cottony nest, that seems scarcely two inches in diameter. Ah, there is a motto !

“ Who can paint
Like Nature ? Can Imagination boast,
Amid its gay creation, hues like these ? ”

It is impossible, Henry, to conceive any thing more beautiful than the *humming birds* are, when in their own climate and alive ; but these specimens have lost a great portion of their brilliancy and splendour, as all stuffed animals, in the course of time, necessarily must. You seem to know the birds so well, that, I presume, it would

would be needless for me to give you much of their history. Like bees, they fly about from flower to flower, making in their progress that humming noise with their wings from which they take their name. Most of them extract the honey by means of their long and slender bills, whilst on wing ; fluttering during the whole process over the mouths of the flowers. These birds, small and beautiful as they are, sometimes fight each other with great ferocity for the possession of favourite flowers. They are now and then caught and kept alive in cages, where they are fed, by putting brown sugar, mixed with water, at the bottom of pieces of paper, made up into the shape of tubular flowers, and painted so as exactly to represent them.

I think I have now given you as much information as you will be able to recollect from one day's lecture. We have gone over some of the most

striking (though, as you see, very few of the whole number) of the birds in the Rotunda. To-morrow we will resume our employment, and examine the birds in the gallery, as well as the two long tables of insects which you see before us.

"At ten o'clock I shall not fail punctually to attend you, sir. I am in love with this amusement, and would not for the world lose an hour of it."

THE SECOND DAY.

The Gallery.

WE have contrived to be at the Museum this morning so early as to be the first of the company. We will pass through the apartments as we did yesterday, and now ascend the stairs to the Gallery which runs round the upper part of the Rotunda.

On the sides of the staircase, you observe, hung up various kinds of *musical instruments*, of different nations and ages. Mixed with these, there are several *ancient weapons*; as cross-bows, spears, and targets. On your right hand is an *ivory sceptre* of a king of Senegal, and over the upper door a *Chinese gong*. The latter instrument is said to be used in some of the populous cities of China, for the purpose of striking upon it the hour of the day and night: it thus serves the place of our clock-bells.

On

On the left of the entrance into the Gallery, there is a beautiful specimen of the *crowned pigeon*, from the East Indies ; and not far from it a remarkably fine *mandarin duck*, (*anas galericulata*) from China.

“ I see there, sir, a *bittern* eating a perch : what a wide mouth and throat he has ! I have heard that bitterns are found in England. Is that true ? ”

It is : but they are now much more rarely observed than they were formerly. I have myself heard them, in the marshes and fens of Lincolnshire, make their deep lowing kind of noise, in still evenings, at a very great distance. They devour frogs, toads, and fish, in pretty good quantity ; and one that I saw shot by a decoyman shewed a great degree both of strength and fury, in fighting with the man and his dog, before it could be killed.

Observe those four small birds with their nests in a case, beyond that containing the magnificent bird of paradise.

dise. They are called in the East Indies *tailor birds*, from the circumstance of their sewing together two leaves, at the extremity of some branch of a tree, for the purpose of forming their nest between them, which is thus out of reach of the attacks both of monkies and serpents, the two greatest destroyers of birds that are found in the hot climates.

“ But the leaves I see there, sir, are not fastened together by a bird : they have been sewed at the edges through and through with a needle and thread. I suppose that the birds may glue them together by some means or other, and, because they would not stick, the people here have sewed them.”

Believe me, Henry, this is the actual operation of the bird. The slender filament of some vegetable is the thread which you see, and the bill of the bird serves it for a needle.

“ Sir, I am all astonishment ! I must believe you, because I know
you

you would not tell me an untruth ; but certainly if I had seen the nest by myself, I should not readily have given any birds credit for so much ingenuity."

The bird I shall next point out to you, is that large white one, with a long bill, broader at the end than in any other part : it is called, from this, a *spoonbill*. This bird is sufficiently common in many parts of Europe, but is not often seen in England. In its appearance it is very singular ; but its habits of life differ very little from the birds of the crane kind in general, to which it belongs.

" I think the bird I see beyond and above this, is the *tyrant shrike*, from Carolina : it is. Oh, it is a daring little fellow ! And, (if we may believe the account of Catesby, who, in Carolina, saw a good deal of these birds) when it is offended it will fix itself even on the back of an eagle, and persecute that immense bird of prey in such a manner,

manner, that he will turn upon his back, and into various postures, in the air, in order to get rid of him. Whilst the hen is brooding, the cock-bird always sits on some adjacent bush or tree, and he will scarcely suffer any birds of prey to come within a quarter of a mile of the nest, without attacking them."

This is, indeed, a fine spirited bird : but, from its size, I should judge that it must frequently be the sufferer, in its combats with such large birds as hawks and eagles, notwithstanding Catesby's story of its being able to fix itself on their backs and torment them. Where one is successful, I should think ten, at least, must fail and be killed.

"Beautiful and interesting creatures ! There are two old *partridges*, and one, two, three—seventeen young ones. How different is the appearance of these elegant and placid birds, attending upon and playing with their young,

young, from those two *game cocks* which I see at a little distance from them: their comb, wings, and tail, cropped and deformed; and their legs armed with iron weapons, for the purpose only of killing each other! It is very cruel, sir, in men (and they must be men that have no kind of feeling for a fine high spirited animal) thus to disfigure these beautiful birds, and make them kill each other for amusement! I do not like the thought of it.--We will pass on to the *bird of paradise*, which I observe beyond."

I highly approve of your indignation respecting the barbarous and unmanly sport of cock-fighting, which, however, is now but little followed, except among the very lowest and most vulgar class of the people. We may therefore live in hopes that it will soon be no more heard of than as an amusement that once pleased the people.--With respect to the birds of paradise, I must inform you that

that the old writers of natural history made them very unaccountable creatures. They believed that these animals never touched the ground from the time of their coming into the world till their death ; that they lived entirely on dew ; had no legs ; and that when they slept, they always hung themselves by the two long feathers of their tail to some branch of a high tree. I need scarcely inform you that such opinions, in these more enlightened times, obtain no credit. The species now before us is a native of New Guinea. It migrates occasionally in great flocks from one island in the eastern seas to another, and seldom alights except on the highest trees. The dead bodies are often brought to this country as an article of commerce, being used as ornaments (supplying the place of feathers) in the head-dress of the English ladies.

There is, at a little distance, a long
F case

case that contains several strange looking birds, some of which, from the long-feathers that surround their necks, seem almost as if they had been artificially dressed up, for the sake only of making an odd appearance.

" I recollect them very well from the prints I have seen. They are *ruffs* and *reeves*: are they not, sir?"

You seem to have almost as perfect a knowledge of the animals in the Museum as I, who am much older than yourself, and have so long attended to the subject.—But what a row of them there is! Fifteen, I declare! Do they not, on the whole, cut a most grotesque figure? The *ruffs* are the males, and the *reeves*, or those with smooth necks, are the females. They are found in *fen*ny countries in some parts of England, and are reckoned very fine eating; but their scarcity causes them to be sold at an enormous price, for such small birds. I have known them bought

bought for four and five shillings apiece.

“ I am certain that I shall not eat of them ; for I think the price a great deal too much for a little creature that would scarcely be more than a good mouthful.

“ Here is a bird somewhat like the vulture that we saw below in the Rotunda ; but it is not the same, sir.”

No : that was the Alpine vulture, a native only of the old continent. This is the *carriion-vulture*, and is found chiefly in America ; where it performs all those services, in devouring putrid bodies, and other corrupting animal substances, that the Alpine vulture does in Egypt, and the hot countries of the east.

There is a pair of brown, or *wood-owls* ; the female sitting on her nest, in a piece of decayed wood, whilst the male is looking on. And there the identical *swallow's nest on the wing of an owl*, which I described to you when

we were below, looking at the nest of the same bird built in a conch-shell.

“ It is indeed very remarkable, sir. What says the inscription which I see ?

‘ THIS NEST WAS BUILT, AND THESE EGGS WERE LAID IN THE WING OF THIS OWL BY SWALLOWS. THE OWL WAS HUNG UP IN THE INSIDE OF A DUTCH BARN BY A FACKTHREAD, SO LOOSE THAT THE LEAST WIND MOVED IT ABOUT.’—Do you think, if I hung up an owl or a conch-shell against our stable-wall, in the country; that swallows would build their nest in it, sir ? I should like of all things to try ; for I should then have as great a curiosity as this.”

Perhaps they might ; but it would be entirely an accidental occurrence, since they might be able to find many places much better adapted to their wants. And if they did begin to make their nest, you would so often interrupt their work by looking at them, that, I fear, they would soon forsake it.

"No, no: I know better than that now. I have been cured of looking often at birds' nests that I am anxious about, since the time that I frightened away the blackbirds from their nest in the garden, and the young ones (poor little creatures!) were left to die of hunger."

I see next a pair of those extremely elegant birds, the *golden pheasant*, from China. Scarcely any colours can be conceived more beautifully mingled than what we observe in these pheasants. The long crest of scarlet feathers hanging down the back part of the neck, and the finely-curved feathers of the tail, render these among the most charming of all the birds we are acquainted with. The sensations excited by this pheasant, are very different from those I feel when I cast my eyes on a small bird that stands near it, the *storm-pinch*, or stormy petrel. The latter has neither elegance of plumage, nor

pleasing manners to recommend it to our notice. By one set of people, the seamen, it is held in a kind of superstitious detestation. Notwithstanding the smallness of its size, it often ranges to vast distances over the ocean, and braves the almost fury of the tempests; and when the sailors observe it near their ships, they consider its presence as the certain sign of an approaching storm.

“ I am not surprised that they should dislike a bird which brings so much danger along with it.”

My dear boy, you must not suppose that the storms are caused by the appearance of the bird; but on the converse, that the appearance of these birds near the vessels, is in consequence of some change in the state of the air, which induces them to seek for shelter in the wake of the ships, previously to the commencement of a storm, in which, otherwise, they must oftentimes perish. Thus the storm-finch

finch ought rather to be held by the sailors in the estimation of a friendly than an evil genius, from its giving them such notice of their danger as to afford them time to make preparation against the worst.

"How very ridiculous! Do, sir, observe those three young *barn-owls*. Nothing can be more grotesque. They look almost as if they were wrapped up in fleecy hosiery. Not a feather is visible, except on the tips of their wings, and a few on their heads. How exceedingly foolish they look!"

When you have laughed sufficiently at the owls, I wish you to observe these male and female *terrynecks*, and four young ones. Their plumage is not beautiful; but what is far more important to them, its mottled brown colour is useful, in sheltering them from enemies, which otherwise might destroy them. It is so nearly the colour of branches of trees, amongst which they reside, and along which they

they run with the greatest ease and security, that it is not without difficulty they can ever be observed. They build their nests in the holes of trees, and live chiefly on ants and other small insects, which they catch by means of their tongue. This, when extended, is somewhat like a worm ; and its length is such that it may almost be coiled round their heads. They have their name of wryneck, from the singular contortions of the head and neck, when they are in the act of picking insects out from the clefts in the bark of trees.

This bird, at a little distance from the wryneck, is the *Brasilian toucan*. All the toucans are birds of very singular form and appearance. Their beaks are of such enormous size, that if they were not hollow within they would be beyond conception unwieldy. But the most singular part of their conformation is the tongue. What think you of it, Henry ? You observe

observe that the tongue of this toucan is drawn out of its mouth, that the visitors may be able to see it.

“ That its tongue, sir ! If ever I saw a feather in my life, what I see stand out of that bird’s mouth is a feather. When I view it closely, I think I observe, and plainly too, both the shaft and vanes. It can be no other than a feather !”

It would be well if boys like you would not sometimes be too positive. When I tell you it is the tongue of the bird, you ought not to think that I mean to deceive you.

“ I really beg pardon for my impertinence ; but the thing is altogether so very like a feather, that I could not help thinking that you called it a tongue only in joke. But why, my dear sir, has the tongue of this bird that very odd appearance ? What can be the particular use in its having vanes so like those of a feather ?”

On this subject I can give you no information.

information. I can only point out to you what it is, without being able to tell you why it is so. No doubt it has some peculiar adaption to the manners or habits of life of the animal, but hitherto we are very little acquainted with these. When the bird is tamed, it is said to leap about, wag its tail up and down, and cry like a magpie. It is a native of Guana and the Brasils, in South America, and lives principally on fruits.—At a little distance from this toucan, you observe another South American bird, called the *trumpet-bird*, or sometimes the gold-breasted trumpeter. This is as remarkable for its voice as the toucan is for its tongue and huge bill. It is a kind of ventriloquist. At times, (with its bill closed) it may be heard to make a hollow, moaning noise, in sound not unlike that of a pigeon; or nearly as you, with your mouth shut, would pronounce *tou, tou, tou, tou, tou*; resting upon the last *tou*

a very

a very long time. This noise is generally preceded by a savage kind of cry, or shriek, twice or thrice repeated.

“ It is a very strange, but, I think, on the whole, a very interesting looking bird. Pray, sir, can it be tamed ? ”

It can, and without much difficulty ; and its attachment to its keeper is greater than that of most other birds. When let out of its cage in a morning, it will hop and trumpet round him, with its wings expanded, and seem highly gratified and delighted. It will obey its master’s voice, will suffer him to play with and caress it, and, if allowed, will follow him about, from place to place, almost like a dog.

I shall now conduct you again to the body of the Rotunda, for the purpose of seeing the cases that contain the Insects.

There are a great many other birds which I should like you to be acquainted

quainted with, but the examination would occupy too much of our time.

"I am contented, sir, though I cannot say but it is with some regret that I am obliged to pass such a multitude of beautiful and interesting creatures unnoticed."

The range of cases in front of the north fire-place, which you see are twenty-four in number, contain all the different orders of insects except one, the lepidoptera (butterflies and moths); and this order occupies the whole of the remaining cases, near the other fire: of these I shall point out to your notice a few that are the most remarkable.

In the first place let me observe to you, that nearly all insects, except those that are without wings, as spiders, mites, millepides, and some others, undergo two essential changes before they are in a perfect state.—After being hatched from the egg, they become what are generally called maggots

maggots or caterpillars. It is only under this form that they increase in size, which they gradually do, changing their skins from time to time till they are arrived at maturity. At this period each kind seeks out a retreat or shelter, adapted to its peculiar wants. Some hide themselves in the ground, others under the coping of walls, or amongst the branches or leaves of trees, and others in different places, where they change into what is called *chrysalids*. In this state they continue, almost without any motion, and altogether without taking any food, till their form is perfected, and they burst out of their case into the world as winged animals.

The insects which you see in that middle case are called *scarabei*. We cannot very well use the term 'beetle' for them, since other insects than those of this tribe take that name. Their bodies are covered all over with hard shells; the two shells on the back

are divided in the middle, and, when lifted up, discover beneath them a pair of thin gauze-like wings, as you have often observed in cock-chafers, and other beetles, in the country. One of the most remarkable of all the scarabei is the large one, which is before us, and may be called the *herculean beetle*, with the long horns standing out from the front part of his body.

“What a huge fellow it is! It must be very strong. If it were alive, and to fly against one’s face, it would fetch blood. My sisters are alarmed at cock-chafers and black beetles, without any cause. But if this were found in England, and in swarms like those, there might be some reason for their fear.”

There might, indeed: but even then, if they were hurt by the beetles, it must be altogether by accident, for, in some cases, the insects themselves suffer very materially from the blow.

blow. In the adjoining case, observe that beautiful insect, whose shells are of a bright green, but striped with gold. It is the *buprestis ignita*. Most of the buprestés are of extremely bright and elegant colours. All the larger species are found only in foreign countries; and this one is a native of the East Indies. In some of the hot climates, they are very abundant. Most of them pass their larva or maggot state in timber or decayed trees, but the perfect insects are generally found among the leaves or flowers of shrubs and herbaceous plants.—You next see, some species of *cimex*, or *bug*, as they are usually denominated in this country. Their wings are not covered with shells like those of the last insects. These may be called semicrustaceous, their lower part being membranous: hence the order to which the insects belong is called “hemiptera.” Several of the cimeces are found amongst the woods

in England ; and most of our slovenly housewives are too well acquainted with one, which they emphatically call a bug.

“ Ah, nasty creature ! I once saw one, and, though I knew it could not hurt me, I could scarcely help shuddering at the sight of it.”

Some of the species are very large, and of beautiful colours ; but all, or nearly all of them, exhale so fetid an odour, that few people are fond of handling them.

“ Of handling bugs ! I should like to know who would chuse even to touch one that could possibly avoid it.”

My dear Henry, if all naturalists were possessed of your prejudices, I fear we should make but few discoveries of any interest among certain orders of animals. I have heard you express an unlimited detestation to many of them. You have only just got the better of the fear you had at the sight of that innocent and defenceless

fenceless creature, the frog ; a creature, that has no power to injure any one. You must strive to overcome these weak and foolish prejudices, for believe me they are such, before you can see to advantage some of the most interesting beauties of nature.

Those insects in the same case are *cicade*; and one of the species is called the *American locust*, from the depredations that its swarms frequently commit in various parts of North America. These are sometimes as great as what we read of in several of the eastern countries, by the *migratory locust*, of which there are some specimens in the case next to the spiders. In one of the middle cases, I observe several specimens of a large *mantis* : they are those strange-looking insects with long bodies and long straggling legs. One of the species is the *orator mantis* : it has this name from its habit of generally resting with its fore feet somewhat erect. In some parts

of France and Germany, where it is often found, it is considered almost in the light of a divinity! When a person has lost his way, if he can only see one of these insects, he goes up to it, and requests it to set him right. He believes that the way to which it points with its paws is the way he ought to go, and he never hesitates to pursue it.

“ But have the people not been undeceived when they have found themselves under a mistake, from such a confidence? Surely, sir, the insect can have no power to instruct them in this manner.”

Certainly not, Henry; but when they find themselves in an error, they will rather attribute the fault to a thousand imaginary causes, than venture to think their little favourite otherwise than infallible. I could particularly point out to you many insects that would interest you amongst the tribes of *cerambyx*, *curculio*, *acindela*,

dela, gryllus, and others ; but I must pass over these, to shew you two interesting species, the *American and Chinese lantern-flies*. All the insects belonging to this tribe have the fore part of their head extended forward, hollow, and inflated ; and it is from this hollow process (which in both of these, and in a few other species, is luminous in the dark) that they derive their names. Most of them are remarkable for the brilliant colours that adorn their wings and bodies ; and few can boast of greater beauty, in this respect, than those before us, when alive, in their native countries. The light they give is so great, is sufficiently great, for a person to read by it. In the woods, when flying about from bush to bush, their little lanterns appear like so many brilliant sparks of fire.

“ I have often seen *glow-worms* at the bottoms of the hedges, and upon grassy banks, in the warm evenings of summer ;

summer ; but I never before heard them called lantern-flies."

Nor did I call them such. The glow-worm and lantern-fly are two insects very distinct from each other. The insect you have seen is in appearance like a flattened and dark-coloured caterpillar. Its light is not observable in the head, but in the three or four last rings of its tail. It is a wingless animal ; the female of a small blackish beetle ; and the use of its light is supposed to consist in attracting the male to it. None of the species of lantern-flies have as yet been discovered in our country.

"What are these very smooth dark-coloured beetles, for such I suppose they are, that I see before me ?"

They are called *water-beetles*, (*dytisci* and *hydrophili*) and the smoothness of their wing-cases is of great use in allowing them to swim very quickly through the water, which they generally do with their backs downwards.

wards. On the same account it is that you also observe them, in this part of their body, to bear some resemblance to the under part of a boat. They row themselves along principally by means of their hind legs, which are formed more like oars than like the legs of other insects. Few animals of their size are more voracious than these, devouring, without commiseration, and in immense numbers, all the smaller kinds of their fellow-inhabitants of the water. They may be considered as amphibious, for they sometimes come out and run upon the land; and accordingly as food becomes scarce, or their inclinations prompt them to it, they unfold their delicate wings from under the hard shells which protect them from the wet, and rise into the air to seek out fresh habitations.

I observe in one of the cases on the other side, a fine specimen of the *stag's-horn cerambyx*, (*cerambyx cervicornis.*)

vicornis.) This is one of the large American beetles. It is produced from a grub that is found in the trunks of some particular kinds of trees, when in a decayed state. What think you of the taste of some of the inhabitants of that country, in considering this grub as a delicious species of food ?

" I am sure the very thought of eating such a thing would make me sick ; but, as I once recollect hearing a dirty boy say, when he ate the maggot out of the kernel of a nut, ' I suppose it is nothing when one is used to it.' Ah ! what are those frightful-looking creatures, with long bodies, and many legs on each side ? "

They are called *centipees*. You have no doubt often heard of centipes.

" Yes indeed I have, very often. They are sometimes brought from the West Indies, where they live in decayed wood ; and even in the houses, in crevices, and behind the furniture.

furniture. I recollect having been told that in some instances, where they are very numerous, the people are obliged to have the feet of their beds stand in water, in order to keep them at a distance during the night. A gentleman once told me that he had been bitten by a centipee, that he trod upon unawares with his naked foot; and he said that the inflammation and pain were very great for a little while, but that he soon recovered from the wound.—But I see a *scorpion*, which I think is a still more frightful animal than the centipee. I should not at all like to be near one of these creatures, if it were alive. The very motion of that dreadful tail, with a sting at the end, would alone make one shudder. Is that large hairy creature, in one of the middle cases, a spider?"

It is: its legs appear almost as thick as your little finger. The country where it is principally found is

Guana.

Guana, in South America ; and it is there called the *bird-catching spider*. From the size of this specimen, which is but a small one of the species, you would easily suppose it had strength enough, at least, to catch humming-birds ; but indeed it often succeeds in surprising, amongst the branches of the trees, where it generally resides, birds of larger size than those. I see there is near it either a *tarantula*, or some other spider very much of the size and appearance of that. In this corner-case there is a various collection : the eggs of dog-fish and rays, (those four-cornered things, the former with long twisted filaments at each angle) the rattles from the tails of rattle-snakes, &c. ; but what is most curious, is the small lizard which you there see with wings ? It has the name of the *flying dragon*.

“ I thought that the notion of dragons had now been exploded, along with

with that of cockatrices, harpies, and mermaids."

Not entirely, as you are yourself a witness, since you see one of them before you. But this is the only one, of all the animals you have mentioned, that is known to exist otherwise than in people's imaginations ; and, instead of being a large and dangerous creature, it is scarcely a foot in length, and perfectly innoxious. From having been so long kept in this cabinet, it has entirely lost the brilliant colours of green, marked with black, which render it a remarkably beautiful animal when alive. Its body appears to be that of a perfect lizard, with the addition of a pair of membranaceous wings, the bases of which extend from the fore to the hind legs. The animal is found in the woods in some parts of Africa ; and though its wings do not actually enable it to rise into the air, and flit about, like a bird, from place to place, yet they are of very

essential use to it, in preventing it from falling to the ground, in its extensive leaps from the higher branches of one tree to the lower ones of another.

I shall now lead you to the other table, which contains, like this, twenty-four cases of insects, but all of them butterflies and moths. Many of these are remarkably beautiful; but our time is so nearly exhausted, that I can do no more than shew them to you generally, without pointing out any particular ones to your notice. I think you know that they are originally bred from an egg, from whence proceeds the carva, or caterpillar, that afterwards changes into a chrysalis, and then into a perfect or winged insect.

If I were to examine with you minutely all the different parts of the Museum that are deserving of remark, instead of appropriating a few days to the labour, it would occupy our attention

attention for weeks. Here, therefore, I shall conclude for the second day; and to-morrow we will somewhat vary our labour, by commencing at the entrance, and going regularly through what are called the first six apartments—the Hall, Passage, Sandwich-room, Saloon, North and South rooms.

THE THIRD DAY.

The Hall, or Entrance-room.

This small apartment does not appear at first sight to contain any curiosities that are very remarkable, and yet we shall find some things well worth our attention.

That enormous pair of *fossil-horns*, over the stove, on your right hand, is in itself so great a curiosity, as alone to repay us for the trouble of coming hither. These horns, which are of surprizing extent, near seven feet from point to point, and each of them very broad and heavy, were dug out of one of the bogs in Ireland. They are supposed to have belonged to some huge animal of the elk kind, which, from the size of the horns, must have been bigger than any of our largest horses, now entirely extinct, and to have lain in the earth ever since the general deluge.

The

The larger glass-case on the left of the entrance, contains *ancient fire-arms* of different nations, but chiefly British. In these, we observe the rude and clumsy workmanship of this country some centuries back. A few of the guns have match-locks, that is, they are entirely without the flint and hammer now in use, and were fired by means of a lighted match applied to the touch-hole.

“ But, sir, they seem so heavy and unwieldy, that, when one hand was occupied in applying the match, the men of those days must have been very strong, to hold and point them with the other. Some of our soldiers would find it no easy thing to manage a common musket with one hand, much less one of these weapons, which should seem to weigh near thrice as much.”

This is no argument for the additional powers of body of our ancestors: they supplied the place of the

arm occupied by the match, with what was called a *rest*—an upright instrument, forked at the top, which the soldiers always carried along with them, and which served them as a mean of levelling their weapons. Above these, there are some guns of Persian and Chinese workmanship, with their stocks curiously inlaid, and in other respects much ornamented.

At the side of this case is a *long gun and its rest*, (marked No. 1.) by which General Wedderburne, brother to the late Lord Loughborough, was killed, whilst reconnoitering a fort in the East Indies. His distance from the place was so great, that the wound he received could not be accounted for till the fort was taken, when this long gun was discovered, and ascertained to have been the same that was levelled at him.—I shall next shew you a great curiosity (marked 2.) It is called a *magazine-gun*, and has four short cylinders at the butt-end, by which

it can be fired as many times successively before it is recharged. It is loaded in the cylinders, without putting the charge down the barrel, as in common guns; and these are moved, so as to come under the barrel, for firing, by means of a small regulator that is attached to them.— Over the case there are several kinds of *powder-horns* and *gun-locks*, the former of African and Persian, and the latter of European workmanship. There are likewise a remarkable *blunderbuss*, and a pair of curious *Persian pistols*.

“What are these things that look like *horse-shoes*, in the small case in the corner?”

You may very well be excused in considering such huge and clumsy pieces of workmanship only *like* horse-shoes, though several of them have been really such. No. 1 is of immense size, and, I presume, is only a representation of a horse-shoe. It was

was taken from the old castle of Oak-ingham, in Berkshire, where it was formerly the custom for every noble-man who passed that way, the first time after succeeding to his title, to present a horse-shoe to the lord of the manor. No. 2 is a large heavy shoe turned up before and behind, which is said to have belonged to a Dutch dray-horse.

“ The dray-horses in Holland should seem from this shoe to be much stronger than ours, unless we are to consider it only as a piece of such heavy work-manship as no horse ought to wear. But what is No. 3 ? That cannot surely be a horse-shoe, with those large iron rings to it ! ”

Those rings were contrived as a remedy for horses that were accus-tomed to trip, by making them lift up their feet more than such horses ge-nerally do. They were only put on when the animals were turned out to grass.

“ I should

“ I should think that no person would like to risk his life by riding an unsafe horse, with the addition of heavy shoes and such rings to them as these.”

The shoes marked No. 7, are curious from the circumstance of their having been made for a bad-footed coach-horse, by means of which it is said he was enabled to travel with ease from London to Edinburgh and back again.—At the bottom of this case there are several bent pieces of iron, and one of the same kind on the outside. They were part of the tire and other iron work of a waggon with gunpowder in it, which caught fire and blew up near Talk on the Hill, in Staffordshire.—On the left of the case, and hanging on the outside, is a German sword, remarkable from having upon its blade, engraved in very distinct characters, a complete calender or almanac in the German language. In other respects there is nothing

nothing to admire, either in its appearance or workmanship.

Against the wainscot, on the left of the door, are *ancient swords, daggers, spurs, and stirrups*, of different kinds; and on the floor immediately in front are the *skulls of an elephant* (the extremities of the tusks sawed off to admit of people's passing it) and of an *hippopotamus*, or river-horse, from Africa.

“ It is a great pity, sir, that the whole bodies of these animals are not preserved, instead of their skulls. I should very much like to see an hippopotamus.”

If you can only have the patience to wait till we visit the quadruped-room, you may have your curiosity gratified by a sight of both these animals, and of several others almost as deserving of your attention as these.

The two larger glass-cases on the other side of this apartment, contain *bows, arrows, and quivers*, from various

rious parts of the world ; from Persia, China, the East Indies, Africa, and America.

The piece of wood, about four feet long, which you observe in that smaller glass-case, and which looks not much unlike a piece of a decayed oak post, is considered a great curiosity. It is the remains of *one of the stakes which was driven down by the Britons into the bed of the river Thames, fifty-five years before the birth of Christ*, in order to obstruct the progress of Julius Cæsar up that river, on his invasion of this country.

“ Wonderful, indeed ! And I presume, sir, that the person who put it into that case himself took it up immediately after the invasion.”

You smile at my account of this piece of wood, because you have heard that antiquaries are sometimes very easily and ridiculously imposed upon. Such is undoubtedly the case in

in some instances ; but there are indeed sufficient reasons for asserting that this piece of wood really is what its owner, Mr. Parkinson, professes it to be.

At the lower part of the wainscot, near the door, on this side, is a *truncheon*, or sceptre, of great antiquity. Its length is about two feet and a half ; and, being composed of metal, it is of course tolerably heavy. It was taken up from the bottom of the Thames ; and the Fishmonger's company, in London, are said to have one, somewhat of the same kind, which they use as a mace.—Near this is a *two-handed sword*, about four feet long, with a cross of about eighteen inches, which belonged to an ancient corporation. On the floor is the shell of a *turtle* ; and near the door-way, to the passage, a long wooden pike, which is stated to have once belonged to the guards of the Great Mogul.

Our time will not allow a further examination

examination of the curiosities of this apartment: we will therefore now enter

The Passage,

that leads from the Hall to the Sandwich-room.—The sides of this passage are hung with cloth and mantles; weapons, paddles, and some other curiosities, chiefly from the South-Sea Islands. The cloth and mantles are surprizing, from the circumstance of their being made by people to whom the use of a loom is totally unknown. The war-clubs of different kinds are numbered 1 and 3. They are very various in shape and size, and are formed of wood that is exceedingly hard and heavy. Many of them are ornamented by a rude kind of carving; but which must be considered as remarkable, when we bring to recollection that, iron being wholly unknown, the only instruments these people can employ in this workmanship

ship are shells, sharks' teeth, or flints. The long and highly-finished club, numbered 3, and marked †, was purchased by the surgeon of the Discovery, from one of the chiefs of Tongataboo for two hatchets. No. 2 are short bludgeons of bone, stone, and wood, called *patapattoos*, from Otaheite and New Zealand. The *pagees* (No. 6.) are short staves, in the form of paddles, used in warlike exercises and dances by the inhabitants of the Friendly Islands. No. 4 are *paddles* and *spearhead battle-axes*, and 6 *adzes* and *short clubs*.

The Sandwich Room.

This apartment, which is square and fitted up with ten glass-cases, contains principally the curious articles collected in the Sandwich islands, during the last and unfortunate voyage of our highly and deservedly celebrated navigator Captain Cook, to whose memory it is inscribed. Of

the

the numerous articles which it contains, I will point out to your notice a few that I think the most remarkable.

We will begin with case A, on the right of the entrance. This contains a beautiful *cloak of green feathers*, which belonged to one of the warriors of Owhyhee, and was considered by its owner as highly valuable. Captain Williamson, then a lieutenant, offered him in exchange for it a very valuable double-barrelled gun, which was refused. He then offered his regimental coat, but this was also refused ; when the owner of the cloak happening to observe a bottle and basin of what is called queen's ware, was so struck with the beauty and novelty of them, that he threw down the cloak, snatched up the ware, and, without waiting to make any regular exchange, with the utmost agility let himself down the side of the ship, and bore it off, with singular good fortune, unbroken.

The case B, opposite to this, contains a very superb *cloak of red feathers*, which the King of Owhyhee took from his own shoulders, and placed on those of Captain Cook, afterwards putting on his head the helmet marked 1, and into his hand a curious fan. These feathered cloaks are considered as very rare and valuable. They are worn solely by the chiefs, and by them only on very particular occasions. Our people observed them to be used but three times; namely, in the procession of the King of Owhyhee and his people on the first arrival of the ships, next in the tumult in which Captain Cook was slain, and the third time when two of the principal chiefs brought the bones of this unfortunate commander to Captain Clerk. The ground of these cloaks is a net-werk, which is wrought entirely by the hand; upon this the feathers are so closely fixed, that the surface seems almost like velvet.—In the case

D, on

D, on the left of the entrance, there is a specimen of the netting only, with the feathers tied in little bunches as prepared for use.—Cases C and B contain large *feathered idols*. These are made of wicker-work, and are covered with feathers, much in the same manner as the cloaks. Their form is that of a bust: the eyes are made of pieces of shells, having a black kind of nut in the middle; the mouths are set round with a double row of dogs' teeth, and, as well as the rest of the features, appear strangely distorted. These idols are carried by the priests, in grand processions, displayed on red cloth, they at the same time singing their hymns with great solemnity.

On the upper shelf of the glass-case which stands next case A, I observe three kinds of wooden cans, or vessels, and a curious *model of a sledge*, cut in bone. On the second shelf, marked II, there is a figure of bone,

or ivory, from Prince William's Sound, *with nose and lip-ornaments*, shewing the manner in which the inhabitants of that place decorate, or as we may rather say, deform the human countenance. The under lip and nostrils are cut to hang these ornaments through; and so extraordinary is the appearance of these people, that one of the English seamen, when they first came in sight, cried out aloud that they had two mouths.—The bottom shelf contains two kinds of frocks, or dresses; one made of leather, and the other of the intestines of a species of whale, so prepared as almost to resemble our gold-beater's skin. The latter may properly be called a *foul-weather frock*; for, when tied close round the neck, it keeps the wearer from getting wet. Its chief use seems to be that of keeping the rain out of the canoes of these islanders, at sea, in rainy weather. This it does completely when tied round the neck and drawn over the

the rim of the hole in which they sit. These frocks are obliged to be kept continually moist, or otherwise they would be apt to crack or break.

The next case has on the top shelf some high truncated conic *caps*, that are worn by the natives of Nootka Sound. A few are curious, from having the process of their whale-fishery wrought on them.—On the second shelf are several kinds of *masks*, some intended to resemble the human face, and others the heads of different kinds of animals.—And at the bottom are some models of canoes, and a *harpoon line and barb*, which are used in catching fish. This line is strengthened within by sinews, and the ingenuity of its whole contrivance was greatly admired by our people.

The most curious articles which I observe on the upper shelf of case 3, are a *large gourd*, of use for containing fishing-tackle and provisions, and a *vegetable-bottle*, which is formed of another

another species of gourd. These vegetable productions are applied by the inhabitants of the Sandwich islands to various kinds of domestic purposes. When they are wanted to be of a shape different from what nature would have formed them, (as, for instance, longitudinal, for containing fishing-tackle) the islanders have the ingenuity to give them different forms, by tying bandages round them during their early growth.—No. 2, on the second shelf, is a *cocoa-nut*, containing the bird-lime which is used for catching those birds, with whose feathers the inhabitants cover their cloaks and helmets. After they are caught the most beautiful of their feathers are plucked, and they are suffered again to have their liberty.—The next shelf contains more vegetable bottles, and, marked 2, a *bowel* that is used by the inhabitants of the Sandwich islands for drinking their intoxicating liquor, called *ava*, the disgusting ceremony of which will

will be well remembered by all the readers of Captain Cook's Voyages. This bowl is considered as one of the greatest curiosities that have been brought from any of the South-Sea islands.

We must now cross to the other side of the apartment, and examine the opposite case, No 4. At the top are some daggers, made of a close-grained wood, called *ahoopas*. Captain Cook was particularly importuned by one of the chiefs to permit him to have an iron dagger, made after the model of one of these wooden ones. The chief's request was complied with ; and we are informed that this was the instrument from which Captain Cook afterwards suffered. There are a few curious *bracelets*, which are said to be worn by the women of superior rank in the Sandwich islands. They are formed of boars' tusks, joined so as to curve outwards, and are very large and heavy.

heavy.—On the second shelf I observe some instruments of hard wood, set at the edges with sharks' teeth. These teeth are fastened with great firmness, their points all one way ; and they are used as weapons both of offence and defence.—In the left corner of the third shelf are several of the instruments which these people use in *tattooing* their bodies, or marking them in different parts ; as we observe in some of the prints of the Sandwich islanders inserted in Captain Cook's Voyages.

In the tumbler-glass, on the second shelf of the next case, you see a specimen of what, no doubt, you have often heard of, the *bread-fruit* ; and near it there are three thin slices of the same. It is the produce of Otaheite and the neighbouring islands, and serves the natives as their chief vegetable food.—On the two lower shelves are a *breast-plate*, apparently capable of great resistance, made of dogs'

dogs' teeth, and several *leg-ornaments* of shells and teeth, all firmly fixed into a ground-work of cloth.

The last of the cases in this apartment contains various kinds of *fishing-implements*, ingeniously contrived, and exceedingly well made. Here are also several *combs*, formed of wood, with very long and thick teeth; some curious *caps*; and part of a dress, very curiously formed of a bird's skin, prepared with the feathers on.

Suspended from the top of the apartment, you observe two *canoes*. Over case B, is a *sledge and harness* complete. This kind of sledge is used in several of the northern countries, and is drawn by dogs, usually five in number. It holds but one person, who sits aside, resting his feet on the lower part of the sledge, and carrying his provisions and other necessaries in a bundle behind him. The other principal objects above the cases are *cloth* and *other manufactures* of different kinds.

kinds, *spears, arrows, bows, mantles, drums*; and (marked 52) a *basket*, singular, from the ingenuity of its contrivance. Its texture is so exceedingly close, that it will hold water nearly equal to a pail, and is sometimes used as a pail and sometimes as a basket.—Near the arch entering the Sandwich room, there are, amongst other things, some singular spears, that are used in the Sandwich islands, in the catching of fish, and for other purposes.—I shall next lead you into

The Saloon.

This apartment, which, as you observe, is circular; with a dome, and contains four deep glass-cases, has many curiosities, but chiefly from the vegetable and mineral worlds. Over the entrance to the North room there is an appropriate inscription, applying to the whole of the Museum, this being its central apartment:

“ See thro’ this air, this ocean, and this earth,
All matter quick, and bursting into birth;

Above how high progressive life may go,
 Around how wide, how deep extend below !
 Vast chain of being, which from God began ;
 Nature's ethereal, human ; angel, man,
 Beast, bird, fish, insect, what no eye can see,
 No glass can reach, from infinite to THINE,
 From rule to nothing ————— !”

POPE.

Over the entrance to the South room there is another of the same description from Milton.

“ These are thy glorious works, Parent of good !
 Thou sit’st above these heavens,
 To us invisible, or dimly seen
 In these thy lowest works ; yet these declare
 Thy goodness beyond thought, and power
 divine !”

Over the other two passages are appropriate inscriptions from the Psalms.

The upper shelf of the first case contains several specimens of *olypodium barometz*, or, as they are generally called, *Scythian lambs*. This is a small, vegetable production, which grows in the forests of some of the

northern parts of Europe and Asia; and bears frequently the rude form of a sheep or lamb, having upright pieces which resemble the legs, and being covered over with a mossy kind of substance, which may be considered as having some resemblance to wool.

—On the second shelf, and marked 4, are several specimens of different rare kinds of *tea*, as prepared for sale by the Chinese. No. 5 are two specimens, inclosed in a glass, of *camphor wood*. No. 12 is a specimen of the *boletus ignarius*, or *fungus-tinder*. It is a soft vegetable substance, somewhat resembling what is called *buff-leather*, in its appearance, and is used by the inhabitants of many parts of the continent for the purpose of lighting matches dipped in sulphur, and answers precisely the same purposes as burnt linen in this country. No 28 is a specimen of the *betel nut*, which, when cut in pieces and wrapped up in *areco* leaf, is chewed by most of the

the inhabitants of the eastern countries of the world, much in the same manner as Europeans chew tobacco.

—On the right of this shelf there is a branch with seven pods of the *dolichos pruriens*, or *cottage* (vulgarly called cow-itch) tree. No. 30 is a specimen of *nutmeg*, with the mace still adhering to it.—The principal curiosities on the third shelf are (No. 1) two different kinds of *cotton pods*, with some of the cotton seeds from the West Indies; and No. 21, the specimens brought from Sierra Leona; of the insects called *ternutes*, or *white ants*, with some parts of their very remarkable buildings. These are a tribe of insects, which, differing from any others, yet known, are naturally divided into three orders: working insects, or *labourers*; *fighting*, or those which perform no other services than what are necessary in defending the nests; and the winged, or *perfect insects*, which alone are male and female,

and capable of propagating the species. Their habitations would be much too large to be brought over to this country entire. They are of a conical form, often elevated to the height of ten or twelve feet above the surface of the ground, and sometimes so numerous as to appear, at a little distance, like the villages of the negroes. I must not omit to point out to your notice No. 23, which is the curious nest or *cell of a large spider*, well known in Jamaica, the *aranea nidulans* of Linnæus. This nest is formed by the female, in a hole in the earth, and is about three inches in length, and one inch in diameter. What is most remarkable about it is the kind of door, or valve, which you observe it has at the top. This the animal closes when it is on the watch for prey, and the moment that comes within reach, the tremendous creature suddenly darts out and seizes it.

On the outside of the glass-case
there

there is a fine specimen of *camphor-wood*, and another from Gibraltar of the *cork-tree*, upwards of four feet in circumference, having the cork still upon it. There is also a piece of the body of an oak, in the centre of which, when it was split, a part of the thigh-bone of some large quadruped was discovered inclosed in the solid wood.

The second case contains little else than minerals. Of these I shall notice only very few. On the top shelf there is a very singular mass of cubic *salt*, fifty-seven inches in circumference, which the intense heat of the sun is said to have crystallized into its present form, round a basket that had been left in a pond, in Salt Island, near Tortola. No. 17, to 26, contain various specimens of *amianthus*, or *asbestos*. In the little pasteboard dish in front, there is a pretty collection of the silky filaments, separated from the stone that forms their matrix. Asbestos, as you may perhaps have

read, was formerly used for preserving the ashes of deceased persons. It was woven, by means of silk used along with it, and afterwards burnt out, into a kind of cloth which will resist the action of the fire. Shrouds were consequently made of it, in which the bodies of great people were wrapped before they were laid on the funeral-pile to be burnt, and by means of these their ashes were kept perfectly distinct from those of the wood. The finest of the present specimens are from Corsica ; but there are some tolerably good ones from Scotland and the isle of Anglesea, in North Wales. On the third shelf I observe a *bird's nest and eggs encrusted with spar*, from a petrifying spring in Derbyshire.

On the outside of this case, there is, as you see, an enormously large shell. It is one of the valves of the *gigantic cockle*, or *chama gigas* of Linnæus, from the island of Borneo. Its length is forty-two inches, its breadth

twenty-

twenty four, and its weight two hundred and forty-six pounds. This is by no means a valve of one of the largest of these shells. The Indians eat their contents; and they sometimes have sufficient in a single animal to serve twenty or thirty people for a meal. The shells, it is said, will snap off a man's hand, or cut in sunder a small cable, if they happen suddenly to close up it. There are two other smaller shells of this description in the same apartment.

In the upper part of the third case I observe several *nests of wasps*, or hornets, which are said to have been brought principally from Cayenne, in South America, from Guinea; and one on the floor at the outside of the case from the East Indies. I shall particularize to you only a single one of the former, which is that about half as large as a man's head, formed on the branch of a tree, and appearing as if it were covered over with a kind

kind of leather, or pasteboard. It is the nest of a wasp, very common in Cayenne, called by the French there, *La guepe cartonnier*, and by Linnæus *vespa cartaria*, or the *paper-wasp*. These wasps are of small size, but live in tolerably large societies. They build their nest on the branch of some tree, attaching it by a cylindrical upper part which they form entirely round the branch. They have generally in each of their nests from eight to twelve rows of cells, separated by a space sufficiently wide to allow them to work. There is only one opening, which is always at the lower part, where the nest terminates in a kind of blunt extremity.---The second shelf is occupied by about two hundred *casts of medals*, struck on particular occasions, or in consequence of remarkable events, in Russia. They are of a dark colour, appearing somewhat like black lead, but are formed of a kind of basaltine ware, and were

were executed at the foundery of Mr. Samuel Walker, at Rotherham, in Yorkshire.--The third shelf is nearly occupied by upwards of a hundred and sixty specimens of woods, from various parts of the world. They are labelled, and contain many of the most curious kinds that have been heard of in Europe. The hard hollow substances that you observe in the right-hand corner of this shelf, are crusts of the *nests* of a small bird, found in the island of Sumatra, called the *esculent swallow*. They are very different from the mud and other materials used in forming the exterior of the nests of our swallows. But what renders them most deserving of note is, that they are greatly valued by the epicures in some of the eastern countries, being used to thicken and give flavour to their soups, and for other culinary purposes.--The bottom shelf contains, in about seventy articles, detached pieces of animals, such

such as the skulls and beaks of birds; the skulls, horns, and teeth of quadrupeds; and the teeth, jaws, palates, and some other parts of fishes.

The fourth case of this apartment contains chiefly the productions of marine animals of the lowest order, denominated by the writers of natural history, *zoophytes*. These are different kinds of *gorgonias*, *millepores*, *madrepores*, *corallenæ*, and *sponges*; some of them very rare and others exceedingly beautiful.

In the centre of the Saloon you observe an elegant *laver* of an oval form, which once belonged to the Medicean collection; but when the Duke of Tuscany took possession of that valuable repository, it was by mistake put out with several other articles intended for sale, and was purchased at a considerably high price by the late Admiral Broderick. At his death it came into the possession of Sir Ashton Lever, and, with the Mu-
seum,

seum, was transferred to its present owner. It is of the curious old *Raphael's ware*, and is ornamented with grotesque figures festoons of flowers, military achievements, foliage, &c. It is considered as a very masterly piece of workmanship.

The two remaining apartments, which I mean to appropriate to this day's examination, (namely the North and South rooms) we must go through in a very superficial manner. My intention was chiefly to shew you the animals; and as we have yet the quadrupeds, reptiles, and fish, before us, and only to-morrow left for them, we must of necessity make the most of our time.

The North Room

Contains twenty-two large glass-cases, and four smaller ones. Of the former, the ten nearest to the entrance are filled with marine productions, of a similar description with those

those of the fourth glass-case, in the Saloon, namely, *gorgonias*, *madrepores*, *millepores*, *corallines* and *sponges*.

—All the remaining cases, as well as that extending along the middle of the room, contain mineral productions. Many of the latter are highly valuable, and several extremely brilliant and beautiful. The specimens are very numerous and select; and amongst them are all the different kinds of ores, as gold, silver, platina, lead, tin, copper, and iron, with a good collection even of gems.

There are a few objects on the outside of the cases to which we must give a little more attention. Immediately under the looking-glass, betwixt cases 10 and 11, there is a remarkably fine rock-chrystral, brought from Switzerland, which weighs ninety-eight pounds. On the right of this chrystral is a large specimen of magnetical iron-ore, commonly called loadstone. This was brought from the

the Brazils, and weighs a hundred and eighty-four pounds.*—There is near it a *horse-shoe magnet* of very considerable size, upon the extremities of which, as you observe, are suspended some keys and a nail. On the left of the chrystral there are some pieces of the natural columns that are found near Coleraine, in the north of Ireland, and called the Giant's Causeway. These are a black kind of rock as hard as marble, and each of a pentagonal figure. Some of the pillars are supposed to be as much as twenty feet high, and there are many thousands of them standing closely side by side, and in such order that the com-

* In the glass-case (No. 20) containing the iron ores, are two other smaller specimens of loadstone, marked 28 and 29. The former is armed and mounted in silver; and the latter, which was brought from Siberia, is cut into a cubical form, and is remarkable for its strong attractive power.

mon people believe them to be the work of art. They have a tradition, that they were placed in the order in which they are now seen by an ancient race of gigantic people who inhabited the country. Some naturalists have conjectured that they are of volcanic origin, whilst others have considered them as a regular operation of nature, and the effect only of chrySTALLIZATION.

On the opposite side of the room, you observe, in a small case, a very large and fine slab, of the white variety of the elastic, or flexible mica-cous sand-stone, from the Brazils. This is justly considered a great curiosity, being about eighteen inches long and three broad ; and yet, by means of the brass wire inserted through the side of the case, you see that I can make it bend almost like a piece of strong leather. Notwithstanding that apparent softness of the stone, it is in reality sufficiently hard to produce fire when struck with steel---In the middle

middle of the table there is a remarkably fine mass of amber-coloured onachine chalcedony, called *sardonyx*, from the East Indies. It is supposed to be the largest specimen of the kind in Europe, weighing upwards of two hundred pounds, and is esteemed of great value. Its surface appears such, that at first sight, one might suppose it had been in a liquid state, being bubbled all over as thick oil would be in boiling. To the left of this is a very large specimen of the *prismatic*, or rainbow-feldspath, from Labrador. The surface is polished, and exhibits some of the most beautiful and brilliant colours that can be imagined. On the same table there is a piece of rich native copper, weighing forty-nine pounds, from the shores of the lake Ontario, in North America.

We will now leave this apartment, and, passing again through the Saloon, will enter the opposite one, which is called

The South Room.

This is precisely of the same shape and dimensions as the apartment we have just left, but it contains only eighteen glass-cases. The first seven, which commence on the left of the entrance, are filled with an exceedingly fine collection of *shells*, brought together from almost all parts of the world. The cases opposite to these contain an equally valuable collection of *fossils*, and are labelled “ORGANIC REMAINS, OR FRAGMENTS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD.” In four cases, at the extremity of the apartment, are about two hundred specimens of polished marbles of different kinds; and in two smaller ones, betwixt these, and over the fire-place, there are several small columns, obelisks, vases, and other ornamented articles of the Derbyshire manufacture.

Amongst the shells I shall shew you a few that are the most remarkable

able. In the first and sixth cases there are some specimens of a large bivalve shell, called *pinna rotundata*, with a little bundle of the silky beard, by which the animal of this shell attaches itself to the rocks on the shores of the Mediterranean. This kind of beard is common to all the species of *pinna*; and it is of considerable use to the inhabitants of some parts of Italy, who weave it into different articles of dress. In case 9 of the Wardrobe room, there is a *stocking* which has been manufactured from this substance. In the first-mentioned glass-case there is also a specimen of the *triton* shell, (*murex tritonis*) or that which is used by the inhabitants of New Zealand as a musical shell, and by those of some parts of Africa, and many countries of the East, as a military horn. In the next case there is a pair of the valves of the pearl muscle, (*mytilus margaritiferens*) from the East Indies; and several specimens of the pearls produced

from the shells. The inside of these shells, which is very beautifully polished, furnishes the true *mother of pearl*.—Passing onward, we come to some specimens of those very celebrated shells, the *paper nautilus* and the *argonauta argo*. The former is found chiefly in the Indian ocean, and is the famous nautilus of the ancients. The animal contained in this shell moves along the surface of the seas, by extending two of its arms out of its shell, which are each furnished at the extremity with an oval membrane that serves as a sail. The other six arms hang over the sides, and supply the place of oars and rudder.

Amongst the fossils, on the opposite side, we remark several fine specimens of *cornu ammoins*, or serpent-stones, some of which are cut through the middle and polished. There are also various *impressions of fish*, many of them very plain and perfect. The fossil palates, teeth, echini, and shells, are

are very numerous. In the sixteenth case there is a fragment of an *elephant's tusk*, and a lower grinder of an elephant, found near Warwick. There is also another grinder, that was found near Munsley, in Norfolk, and which weighs upwards of eleven pounds. The impressions of vegetables, and the specimens of fossil-wood, are particularly excellent.

The other curiosities of this apartment are not very numerous. In the middle of the room there is a most curious and superb *oriental toy*. A description of this singular piece of workmanship is not easy to be given. You observe that it is chiefly an artificial rock, hollowed out in every part, and containing, on all sides, innumerable small animals, real and fabulous, as well as varicus human figures, both on foot and horse-back, which, although exceedingly small, appear all to be well shaped and perfect. Besides other things, this toy contains a model

model of the tomb of Confucius, the celebrated Chinese philosopher. It has been stated by an excellent judge, that a production of art similar to the present could not be made for a sum of money less than fifteen hundred pounds. Against the wall, betwixt the fourth and fifth cases, there is a genealogy of the patriarchs, prophets, and kings, from Adam to Mohammed, according to the Mohammedian account ; and also of the calephs and sultans from Mohammed to the year of Hegira 1051, or 1672 of Christ. This is, in the Turkish language, considered as a curious piece of manuscript, and is beautifully written and illuminated. Not far from it is a Turkish state paper, with the cypher or signature of the Grand Seignior, sultan the third. In the case that contains the latter there is a Turkish pen, formed of a reed, and four Turkish coins. In front of these there is a piece of a fossil, a petrified tree, that

that was twenty-five feet long, and found in the quarries, near Swindon, in Wiltshire. On the opposite side of the apartment there is an elephant's tusk, about nine feet long, which weighs 113 pounds; and a very large impression of a fish in stone.

THE FOURTH DAY.

Fish Room.

THE present apartment is, as you observe, the small square one next to the Rotunda. Its upper cases contain numerous specimens of fish, and its lower ones various kinds of dresses, implements for fishing, &c. from the South Sea islands. Let us commence with the latter.

In the Sandwich room I shewed you a similar collection to the present, (but a much more extensive one) of curiosities, principally from the Sandwich islands: these are from other islands in the same seas.

The first case, which is on the left of the entrance to the monkey room, contains only the dress of a chief mourner of Otaheite; and you will so well recollect the description and print of it in Cook's Voyages, that it will be unnecessary for me to describe it

it to you further.—In the second case there are, amongst other things, various implements for catching fish, a specimen of flax brought from Norfolk island in 1797, ropes from the different South Sea islands, instruments used for tattowing, combs, and fans.—The third case is filled with various ornaments for the head, neck, and arms, and with different kinds of musical instruments. The remaining five contain aprons, petticoats, cloaks, baskets, specimens of cloth, and the wooden pillows on which the inhabitants of Otaheite rest their heads during sleep.

“ We now come again, sir, to my favourite subject, natural history.”

Yes : the remainder of this day will be occupied with little else. And now for a beginning.

“ Pray what is that ugly wide-mouthed fish which I observe over the entrance ?”

It

It is called a *fishing frog*, and has its name from the long tough filaments that are in front of its head. The animal is said to conceal its body amongst marine plants or splinters of rocks, leaving only these filaments exposed, which, when the smaller kinds of fish approach in mistake for worms, the tremendous jaws of the fishing frog are immediately opened to swallow them.

A little to the right of this you observe an *angel shark*, a fish whose skin, when somewhat altered by additions and curtailments, has often been imposed upon credulous people for a mermaid, or a creature half a human being and half a fish.

" I have always understood that the mermaids were fabulous animals, and it is a piece of new information to me that these strange looking fish have been exhibited for them. But why should the name of angel-shark be selected

selected out of all others for such a creature? There seems to me nothing angelic about it."

The name has no reference in any other respect than that of the wings. Those two lobes, or fins, one on each side near the front of the body, have, no doubt, first suggested to the sailors (to whom the sea-fish are generally indebted for their names) the idea of wings; and from these, and the round and deformed appearance of the head, they have, in ridicule only, given the fish a denomination to which it has by no means any fair claim.

Both of the fishes I have just noticed are exceedingly voracious animals; but the next that I shall introduce to you very far exceeds either of them in this respect. It has consequently been denominated the *sea-wolf*. From its size, being sometimes betwixt five and six feet, and the amazing powers of its body, its presence is always very fatal amongst the shoals of fish that

sometimes visit the coasts of Europe, but particularly to the marine crustaceous animals, such as crabs, muscles, large whelks, and others. The strongest of these shells it grinds with ease in its enormous jaws.

“ I observe that its teeth have a very tremendous appearance. How do the fishermen manage to catch it? I should think it would bite them very much.”

They are always exceedingly cautious how they take it out of their nets. It would snap an arm or a leg off in a moment, unless the utmost care were taken. The celebrated traveller, Steller, once saw a sea-wolf caught, which by chance seized hold of the cutlass intended to kill him, and snapped it in his mouth almost like a piece of glass.

Near the sea-wolf there is a *john doree*, the fish that Quin, the player, first brought to the notice of the epicures of this country; and which, in conse-

consequence, is now become so celebrated as to be in much request at the tables of all great people.

“ What an immense lobster ! It must certainly measure above two feet in length. A note on the case informs us, that when taken it weighed fourteen pounds and a half. Did you ever see one so large before, sir ? ”

I cannot say that I ever did see a whole lobster so large, and very few of that size have ever been caught ; but I recollect being once shewn the great claw of one, caught on the Welsh coast, which, I think, must have been larger even than the claw of that.

Above the lobster there is a *remora*, or sucking fish, a species of which, no doubt, you have seen some account in all the books of natural history that you have read.

“ Oh yes ! I very well recollect the sucking fish. How easy of belief the ancients must have been, to assert that so small an animal had the power of

stopping the progress of any ship, however great the size, or at however fast a rate it was sailing!—What is the fish immediately over the passage to the room in which I see the monkies? I think I recollect it."

It is called a *hammer-headed shark*, and has this name from the singular form of its head, which, as you see, extends on each side, so as in some measure to resemble a hammer. At the two extremities of the head are situated the eyes. It is found principally in the Mediterranean, American, and Indian seas, where it becomes of so enormous a bulk, as sometimes to weigh upwards of five hundred pounds. In voracity it is considered as being little inferior to any of the sharks.—In a case on the opposite side of the apartment is a *sun-fish*.

"I never saw so grotesque a looking animal in my life. It almost appears like the head of some immense fish cut off from the body, with

with a narrow fin fastened along the part where it was cut."

And yet it is a perfect fish. I suppose you would be greatly astonished were you to see one of these fishes' heads (as you are pleased to term them) that measured eight or ten feet in length, and were of a proportionate breadth and thickness.

"Are they ever of such size, sir?"

They are: one is said to have been caught on the coast of Ireland above twenty feet long. These fish have the property of shining in the dark, with a light somewhat like what you have observed from decayed wood.

"I should think perhaps more like what I have now and then seen from dead fish in the larder."

But with this difference, that the sun-fish are luminous whilst alive, which the fish you allude to are not.

"It must then be a very beautiful sight to have before one several sun-

fish swimming in the sea in a dark night."

I am informed that it is so ; but, as these animals are seldom found about the English coasts, it is a sight almost unknown in this country.

The Monkey Room.

" What a set of grotesque fellows are here ! Monkies, I suppose, sir, of almost all kinds, and from all countries. How d'ye do, Mr. Baboon ? Pray what is that large and sapient looking animal, clothed in grey ? "

It is the *dog-faced baboon*, and has been brought from the Cape of Good Hope.

" Do, I beg, sir, stop a moment, and suffer me first to look round at them all before you begin to describe them. How ridiculous ! Some, I observe, are placed in human attitudes, and seem occupied in employments that belong only to men. A family-watch-

watchman--a family-barber--the clerk of the monkey room--the beau of his family. You are indeed a set of droll fellows ! What amazingly long arms the ape has near the corner ! Though he stands perfectly upright, he can nearly touch the ground with his fingers."

That is a very curious and valuable specimen. The animal has of course the name of the *long-armed ape*. Although it is sometimes found in the islands of the eastern seas, it is most commonly observed on the continent of some parts of India. Its figure and general appearance are very disgusting, and yet it is usually considered as a docile and tractable creature. In the classification of animals it ranks next to the ourang outang, of which there are two specimens over the dog-faced baboon. They are male and female ; but were so very young when they died, as to afford you but little idea of

of the species to which they belong.

"I have read a great deal about ourang outangs. Did you ever see one of them alive, sir?"

I do not recollect at this moment that we have ever had them alive in this country; and they are so very scarce, that even stuffed specimens are but rarely to be seen. They are chiefly brought from the island of Borneo, where they sometimes become almost as large in size as men, and where they have a name that signifies wild men of the woods.

"What, are they considered to be men?"

By no means: it is only from their distantly rude and disgusting external resemblance to human beings, that this name has been given to them. They are destitute of every appropriate attribute of man, and are in reality, what the filthiness of their manners

manners plainly indicate them to be, perfect brutes.

Observe that large baboon, with a naked blue face, marked into furrows, or ribs. It is the variegated baboon, or *mantegar*.

“ What enormous teeth he has got! If he were alive I should not like to come within his reach. From his appearance, even now he is dead and can do no injury, I should suppose, sir, he has once been a savage animal.”

. There are very few of the ape tribe which have greater strength of body, or are more ferocious in their dispositions, than the *mantegar*.

Many of the animals contained in this room are very rare and uncommon; and about six of them were unknown even to that indefatigable and celebrated naturalist, Linnæus. But our time will not even here allow us to be very particular. I shall therefore shew you only two others.

The

The first is that small monkey, scarcely so large as a squirrel, its back and tail marked with alternate bars of black and white, and a white tuft of hairs standing out from each cheek, contained in one of the cases near the entrance. It is the striated monkey, or *sanglin*, from South America. From its small size and general appearance it is an interesting animal, and its manners are as pleasing as its appearance. It has sometimes been brought alive to England ; and in confinement it feeds on insects, snails, or even on fish.

The other is that black monkey, with exceedingly long and small limbs, from whence it has generally the name of *spider-monkey*. When these monkeys are alive and in the forests of South America, (in many of which they are found in astonishing numbers) they exhibit a very great degree both of courage and activity. Their gambols and grimace are exceeded by none

none of their fellows. Coiling the extremity of their tail round the smaller branches of the trees, they will swing about, and play the most whimsical and entertaining pranks imaginable.

“ I should very much like to see them thus free from the restraint of a cage. I suppose I should laugh heartily at all their extraordinary manœuvres.”

If you could see them with as great ease as you behold the present monkeys, you might, no doubt, be considerably amused. But the inconveniences of being in a hot climate, and particularly in the woods of a hot climate, where you would be pestered with thousands of musquitos ; to be in danger of attack from the larger beasts of prey, as well as being bitten by some poisonous serpent, incautiously trodden upon whilst asleep amongst the long grass or verdure, through which you must walk to attain

attain your amusement, would destroy all the pleasure you might expect from it.

“ Thank you, sir, for your description. I am very well contented to stay at home, and see only dead animals, if such impediments lie in my way towards seeing them in their native countries alive.”

Reptile Room.

The two narrow apartments into which we enter from the Monkey room, contain the reptiles and serpents, the monsters and preparations of different parts of animals.

Amongst the reptiles, I observe the salamander, the flying dragon, (which I have before described) the chameleon, crocodile, gangetic crocodile, pipa toad, bull-frog; the trunk, or coriaceous turtle, rattle snake, viper, common snake, and the spectacle snake, or cobra de capello.

“ I shudder

"I shudder at the sight of so many dreadful animals!"

In their present state, certainly none of them can injure you; confined in these bottles, you may approach and examine them without fear.

The *salamander* is that small black-and-yellowish lizard which you see on your right hand.

"That a salamander, sir! And has so insignificant an animal the power of quenching a great fire?"

I am somewhat surprised at your asking such a question: even in what you have read of natural history, I could not have supposed but that the old and fabulous notion had been eradicated from your mind. The ancients were indeed inclined to attribute many strange properties to this little animal, yet modern experimentalists have satisfactorily proved these properties to be altogether imaginary. The salamander is simply

a small and harmless lizard, that is found in shady places, about the banks of rivers and streams, in many parts both of France and Italy ; and all the highly-romantic notions respecting its qualities and powers, are now entirely at an end.

On the opposite side there is an animal whose real properties are almost as remarkable as these imaginary ones of the salamander. I allude to that (in its appearance) extremely ugly creature, the *pipa*, or Surinam toad.

“ What do I see ? Young ones, I declare, coming out of its back ! Pray, sir, what do these mean ? ”

The *pipa* differs from all other animals whatever in the production of its young ones. On the back of the female, as you there observe, there are several circular cavities, which have an opening outwards. As soon as she deposits her spawn upon the ground, the male *pipa* collects the

eggs

eggs in a heap, and lays them with great care on the back of the female. Here they are impregnated ; and in these cavities the young ones undergo a kind of second birth. When they have attained a sufficient age, they come forth from their hiding places, and leave their parent to procure food for themselves.

“ This is indeed most astonishing ; and I must believe the fact, since I have the animal itself, with the young ones actually in her back, before my eyes.”

Somewhat nearer to the entrance, and on a lower shelf, is the celebrated *spectacle-snake*, or *cobra di capello*, from the East Indies. This snake some of the Indians teach to move in a certain manner, (to musical sounds) which they call dancing. Above the lower glass-cases are stuffed specimens of that dreadful American serpent, the *rattle-snake*, and of the *ameleon*. On the side

opposite to these, is a *bull-frog*, from North America. Those two viviparous quadrupeds, which have a great exterior resemblance to lizards, are the long and short-tailed *manis*.

“ But what is that large animal over the entrance ? ”

That is a *trunk-turtle* which was cast on shore near Bridport, in Dorsetshire.

“ I have always been told, sir, that turtles are not found in England ; but that they are brought from the West Indies.”

The green turtle, to which you allude, and which is the only one brought to this country as food, has never yet been discovered on our coasts. The present species is generally found in the Mediterranean Sea, and its flesh is considered as so coarse and bad, that few people, even of the poorest classes, will eat of it.

In the next apartment I shall particularize nothing, except the *alligators*

tors and *crocodiles* which you observe above the glass-cases; and of these your own reading will have afforded you sufficient information, to render any remarks from me altogether unnecessary. The other subjects are, many of them, highly interesting to naturalists; but to cursory examiners of the Museum, they are generally thought of little importance.

Leaving these two small apartments, (neither of which contain objects that are of very pleasing appearance) we will repass the room containing the monkies, to one on the opposite side of the Museum. This is called

The Wardrobe Room.

It contains several glass-cases, filled for the most part with various kinds of male and female dresses of different ages and nations.

"What is the meaning of the Turk
N 3 which

which I see in the glass-case in the corner?"

It represents a very strange character, Edward Wortley Montague, Esq. dressed in a Turkish habit: and in the same case you observe several eastern pipes that were also once his property. He was an Englishman, (the son of the celebrated Lady Mary Wortley Montague) who, after assuming many very unaccountable characters, retired to Turkey, where he resided many years. Such was his predilection for eastern manners and habits, that even at last, when he returned to Europe, he could not be prevailed with to adopt those of an European; but continued till his death to wear a long beard, and dress himself in every respect after the eastern style.

The adjoining case contains a lady's full dress stiffen bodices of the time of King Charles II.; and a full-dress jacket,

jacket, worn during the reign of Charles I. The former has, no doubt, in its time been considered very elegant, being richly worked with silk and silver. The latter is of black satin, variously cut and ornamented ; but the improvements that have taken place in female attire during the last twenty years, are such as to render it almost surprizing that parts of dress like these (which aided in deforming the human figure) should ever have been considered otherwise than with disgust. There are in the same case a muslin shirt, woven in the East Indies, without a seam ; and a stocking, manufactured from the silky beard of the shell-fish called *penna rotundata*, which I mentioned to you when we were examining the South room.

Besides the head-dresses, &c. of Chinese men and women, there is in the corner of the next case a lady's *stilt*, one of those that were used in Venice during the seventeenth century.

tury. This stilt is near sixteen inches high, has a kind of sandal-shoe fixed on the top, and seems to be a frame of wood covered with white leather. There is pasted on it an extract from Lassel's Account of Venice, written about the year 1660. As for the women here, they would gladly get the same reputation that their husbands have, of being tall and handsome; but they outdo it with their horrible choppini, or high shoes, which I have often seen to be full a yard high. I confess I wondered at first to see women go upon stilts, and appear taller by the head than any man, and not be able to go anywhere without resting their hands on the shoulders of two grave matrons that ushered them.

Over the ninth and tenth cases there are the helmet, gorget, armour for the body and left arm, with the leather surtout, that were worn by Oliver Cromwell. The weight of his armour

armour is said to have been very nearly thirty-eight pounds.

In this apartment, dispersed about it, and in the different cases, are hammocks, &c., from the South-Sea islands; Persian, Chinese, and English shoes, of various kinds; ancient gloves; a dress of skins from Nootka Sound; a warrior's dress from the neighbourhood of the river Gambia, in Africa; a facsimile and translation of part of the koran; a hat and fan made of feathers, and many other curiosities which the shortness of our time will not allow us particularly to notice.

The first Triangular Room.

This is a very small apartment, containing only five glass-cases, the curiosities deposited in which are entirely of a miscellaneous nature. In the first there is a great quantity of the eggs of different birds, English and

and foreign, but all of them dusty and out of order. Amongst the articles that I observe in the second, are a small iron hoop, which was found in the body of a solid oak; a specimen of writing by a woman without arms, and written with the shoulder and cheek; some American paper money; a certificate of a person having seen the holy sepulchre; and a very curious kind of knife that has a dagger concealed in its blade. In the third and fourth cases, there are a pair of ivory bracelets of an African Princess; papyrus and oriental writings; a pewter dish and pot rolled up by Topham, the celebrated strong man; a Malay Creese, or poisoned dagger from Prince of Wales's island; part of an Elephant's tusk, inclosing an iron ball; grotesque figures formed out of the tea tree; a small folding screen from China, made of rice, ornamented with human figures, temples, &c.; eight ivory balls, curiously carved,

carved, and one within another; small Chinese figures; and a Chinese *compass* and pair of money-scales. In the fifth case, there is a good collection of different kinds of tortoises and turtles, from various foreign countries; and above all these, there are several ancient helmets, breast-plates, and other parts of the iron armour formerly worn in England.

The second Triangular Room.

In a former apartment we saw several species of *fish*; in the present we have some others, chiefly brought to England by the ships in which Captain Cook made his last voyage. In one of the upper cases there is a specimen of the celebrated *muræna*, or eel, of the ancients; and near it an *eight-armed cuttle-fish*. The latter is very small, comparatively with the accounts that some of the voyagers give us of the same animal in hot climates,

climates, where they say its arms sometimes exceed the length of twenty feet.

“ What a frightfully enormous creature ! It would almost be large and strong enough to sink a tolerably big ship.”

I doubt whether any of them could do this : but the Indians, (in seas that are frequented by this cuttle-fish) when they go out in their canoes, always take an axe along with them to cut off the arms of any of these creatures that may happen to be thrown across them.—The remaining animals in this small apartment are different kinds of asterias, or sea-stars, crabs, tortoises, and lizards.

The two remaining glass-cases contain chiefly antiquities and some coins. In the first of the two there is a paste-board box, containing a *drawing of the funeral procession of Queen Elizabeth*, by Camden, the celebrated historian and antiquary. Below this, amongst

amongst other coins and medals, you observe a *Swedish dollar*, of copper, about six inches square, and apparently very heavy; and near the latter a Queen Anne's farthing. There are also a *miniature portrait* of Oliver Cromwell, in enamel; a Chinese *tinder-box*: and, what was once more valuable to Mr. Parkinson than any article in the Museum, the fortunate *ticket* by which it became his property.

The second case contains a model in ivory of a *guillotine*; a *family-comb* from Siberia; a *consecrated candle*, of *wax*, from the celebrated chapel of the Virgin Mary, at Loretto; and a *specimen* of *writing* particularly neat and legible, by a person who had been deprived of sight by the small-pox.

Quadruped Room.

The first object that attracts our attention in this apartment is the *elk*, that large animal, of the stag kind, bigger even than a horse which stands on the floor at the further end. You recollect the fossil-horns which I shewed you in the Hall, and which I told you were found in Ireland. They very much resemble these of the elk, except that they have from each a pointed process near the skull, called a brow-antler, which, you see, is wanting here. The elk is a native only of the northern climates, and is more frequently observed in America than in Europe. It is hunted by the Indians for food ; but in some of the colonies it is now found to be useful as a domestic animal. When caught young, the elks have become so mild and tractable, as, in a few instances,

to be broken in like horses, and afterwards used with success as beasts of draught.

“ I should very much like to see a stage-waggon drawn by eight elks. What a grotesque sight their huge horns would make ! ”

It is not probable that they might be useful in dragging a load so heavy as that. They would be more serviceable in light carriages, where speed rather than strength was wanted. In these they would, no doubt, be able, with great ease to themselves, to out-travel the horse.

“ I see the elephant, sir ! I see the elephant ! It can be no other animal. I know it from recollection of the prints. It is in the shed in the garden. Do let us go to it now. But what is the other large animal along with it ? ”

That, Henry, is the hippopotamus, or river-horse, which I promised to shew you.

It is a very singular looking creature, with a wide mouth and immense teeth. But I will look at the elephant first. What a huge beast it is ! It is a very ugly animal, sir. Its skin has scarcely any hair on it, and appears almost as if it were covered over with mud. But its trunk and its two tusks —these must be very powerful weapons to so large an animal."

So they are : but the natural disposition of the elephant is so gentle, that he very seldom exerts them, unless he have been previously offended.

"With this clumsy-looking trunk, if the animal were alive, he could take up from the ground so small a thing as a shilling. Really, sir, if I did not know that the truth of this were perfectly ascertained, I should scarcely believe it, when I look at the trunk of this dead elephant. To support so heavy a body, I observe that

his

his legs are particularly thick and strong. His feet also are very different from those of any animal I ever saw before. On the hinder feet there are four, and on the fore feet five large rounded-toes, covered with a kind of horn, so as to appear like hoofs.

“ Now for its neighbour, the *hippopotamus*. In what country, sir, is the hippopotamus found ? ”

It is a native of Africa, from the river Niger, southwards, to the Cape of Good Hope. Unwieldy as the elephant may seem to you, this animal is infinitely more so. He is in some measure amphibious, for he is almost as often seen in the water as on land. But he cannot continue any great length of time immersed without rising to the surface, in order to eject the foul air from his lungs, and take in a fresh supply.

"Pray, sir, has the hippopotamus ever been tamed?"

In a few instances it has: but I have never heard of any of the animals having been brought alive into Europe. They are generally considered as very ferocious; and they are not capable of domestication, so as to perform any of those services to the natives of Africa, which the elephants do to the inhabitants of Asia.

"I think I have seen sufficient of these two celebrated beasts. If you please we will again enter the quadruped room, and examine the other animals which I observed there as we passed through."

We will begin with the three large glass-cases at the west end, near the entrance; and first look over, in a cursory manner, some of the curiosities contained in them, before we go on further with the quadrupeds.

In

In the first case there is an *ancient almanack*, of the date of 1432. It is written on vellum, and folds double fourteen times, from end to end. On one side are seen marked the twelve months of the year, with all the saints' days that were observed whilst this country was of the Roman Catholic persuasion; and in the two last folds are written some of the principal epochs from the creation to the birth of Christ. On the other side is depicted what was principally going forward during each month, with notes also of the increase and decrease of days. This is justly considered as a very curious relic of antiquity, and is almost the only one of the kind now generally known to be extant. This case likewise contains the *head of an ancient British spear*; an *ancient knife and purse*; *antique brass snuffers*, of rude workmanship; and some other curiosities of a similar description.

In the remaining cases you observe some small antiquities, in metal, from Herculaneum; several kinds of rings and seals; some ancient keys, of curious workmanship; and several very beautiful specimens of Persian and Roman earthenware.

“ I am impatient to proceed with the quadrupeds. What is that clumsy and darkish coloured animal near the entrance ? ”

You will immediately recollect it when I tell you that it is a *glutton*, from Hudon’s Bay.

“ Detestable creature ! It is said to overload its stomach in such a manner, when it happens to catch any animal, that it is afterwards under the necessity of squeezing itself betwixt two trees, in order to get rid of some part of its burden. I detest gluttony, and cannot bear to look at the beast. Do, sir, let us pass on,”

To atone for the supposed bad qualities of this animal, I will shew you two others that are remarkable for their pleasing manners. These are the Virginian and Surinam *opossums*. Neither of them is so large as a cat ; and the young ones of the latter, as you observe, are hanging by their tails to the tail of their mother."

" What pretty creatures they would be if they were alive ! I did not think that any animals could swing by their tails, except monkies.

All the different kinds of opossums are able to do this. They live chiefly amongst the branches of trees, along which they are able to run with the greatest facility. It is supposed that they secure themselves from falling, whilst they sleep, by coiling their tails firmly round the smaller branches. But what is principally remarkable in the females of these animals, is the pouch under the belly that contains the

the teats. This has an external opening, and can be closed by the parent-animal at pleasure. Immediately after their birth, she receives her young ones into this pouch; and, till they have attained sufficient size and strength to take care of themselves, they always seek here a retreat whenever any danger threatens them.

The large animal, with a long and extremely bushy tail, and slender, cylindrical snout, is *the great ant-eater*, from South America. Its name is derived from the ants on which it feeds. When it discovers a nest of these insects, it first scratches it up, in order to bring the ants from their hiding places; then, putting amongst them its long worm-like tongue, which is covered with a clammy kind of matter, they stick to it; and when as many have been secured as it can at once well hold, the animal draws it into his mouth, and thus swallows them

them by hundreds at a time. The same operation is repeated till his hunger is satiated.

Above the ant-eater there is a *buck*, or male fallow-deer, and at a little distance from it a *roe-buck*.

“ The buck is what we see in gentlemen’s parks : is it not, sir ? ”

Yes.

“ How different it appears when alive and at liberty, from what its skin does when stuffed and in a case ! All its beauty and all its interest are now comparatively lost.”

That of course must be the case with nearly every species of animal which we have examined in this Museum ; and it is only because you have not seen them in a living state, that you have been thus pleased with them.

“ I must not think too much on the subject ; for I find that, in order to enjoy it properly, I ought not to reflect

reflect that I am only in a kind of catacomb, and surrounded by dead bodies. But I see some animals that I should not like to be in the same room with, if alive, unless they were better secured, than by glass-cases. A *lion*, *tiger*, *leopard*, *white* and *black bear*, would be somewhat dangerous company, besides the multitudes of smaller beasts of prey that might start out of their cases upon me. My little body would not allow them a mouthful apiece. What amazing strength of limb those enormous creatures must once have had! I think I am tolerably well acquainted with their history."

If that be your opinion I will say nothing respecting them; and I must recal your attention to some animals that you have omitted against the wall on which you saw the buck.

The *three-toed sloth* is an animal that well deserves your notice.

"I readily

" I readily allow, sir, that it is a very singular creature ; but its habits of life, like those of the glutton, are very disgusting. No doubt it fills with propriety the station that Providence has assigned to it ; and, as occupying a link in the immense chain of creation, is justly entitled to our admiration ; yet, when I contemplate its peculiar manners, I cannot help feeling a great degree of dislike to the animal itself. I recollect well its history, that its motions are, almost beyond conception, slow ; and that when it has once climbed into a tree, which is generally the process of a day or two, it does not descend so long as there is a leaf or a bud remaining.—I can contemplate with much greater pleasure this young *zebra* ; and could even find amusement in fancying myself transported to the extensive plains of Africa, on which large flocks of these very beau-

iful animals are said to feed. If there were no personal inconvenience or danger in it, I should very much like to see them galloping about, and frisking in their native wilds.—I see another elegant creature of the deer kind."

The animal towards which your finger is directed is a species of antelope, and not of deer: it is the *chamois*, an inhabitant of the mountains called the Alps and Pyrenees. The chamois sometimes assemble in flocks of eighty or a hundred together; and they are said to leap about amongst the rocks and precipices with the greatest agility. All their senses are remarkably acute, but in particular those of smelling and hearing. We are told that, when the wind blows in a proper direction, they are able to scent a man at the distance of more than half a mile. They are hunted for the sake of their skins, which, when

when properly dressed, are well known to almost every one by the name of chamois, or shammy leather.

The animal in the corner case, on the floor, is a *wild cat*, that was killed near Coomb-abbey, in Warwickshire.

“ It is more than twice as large as our house-cats. I am not at all surprised at the cat being considered to resemble a tiger, when I look at the strong and powerful creature that is before me. What enormous teeth are there ! I am very glad that none of these beasts are now to be found in the woods of this country.”

There are yet some few left ; but they are confined to mountainous and thinly-inhabited districts, where, it is most probable, you will never have to encounter them.

On the other side of the apartment I shall shew you a porcupine and a beaver, with which we must be con-

tented to close our observations on the Museum.

The *porcupine*, no doubt, you are tolerably well acquainted with, as to the history of its manners and habits of life: and I suppose you know that the notion of its shooting its quills at its enemies is altogether fabulous.

“ When attacked, it is said to throw itself on one side, and to erect in its defence the sharp prickles of the other. The porcupine seems too clumsy an animal to be able to climb trees, and yet, sir, if I recollect aright, it is said to do so.”

Its claws are sufficiently long and sharp, and its legs quite stout enough to permit this. It lives, however, principally on the ground, where it digs a dwelling, in which it resides, secure from the attacks of all the larger species of predatory animals. In this it always sleeps during the day-time, going abroad in search of fruit, roots,

roots, and vegetables, its chief food, in the night.

You now see an animal, the accounts of which you have frequently read with great delight.

“ Is that a *beaver*, sir? I see it is by its flat and scaly tail.”

It is a beaver, Henry—one of those interesting animals, which, in some of the distant settlements of North America, form huts and dams, and associate in a community, the unanimity and manners of which might sometimes be copied with advantage even by men. Many of the accounts that have been related to us are, doubtless, exaggerated, and are in some respects fabulous; but they all concur in affirming, that the habits and instincts of the beaver are much superior to those of most other animals.

Here our observations must end : and I shall make a few general and concluding remarks upon what we have seen. Through the whole animal creation, we find that Divine Providence has fitted every creature to its peculiar station, which station it always fills with admirable exactness and propriety. Innumerable as are the animated beings which inhabit the surface of our globe, so equally is the balance of nature continually kept, that we seldom hear of the total annihilation in a country of any one species, even through the long course of many centuries. The production of their young ones, the term of life, and the numbers destroyed by affording food to their fellow-animals, are uniformly proportioned to the place that each species has to fill. Their clothing is invariably the best for their wants ; and their appropriate food is always so far within their reach, that

they

they are seldom indeed entirely desti-
tute of it. ‘ The works of the crea-
tion are thus all of them so many
‘ demonstrations of the infinite wis-
‘ dom and power of God ; and they
‘ ought to serve us as so many argu-
‘ ments to excite in us a constant fear
‘ of him, and induce us at all times to
‘ yield a ready and cheerful obedience
‘ to his laws.’

THE END.

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